



CHICAGO ABC
ZINE #1

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Calling All Artists

Chicago ABC is looking for prisoner artists or other artists to submit art for Chicago ABC logos, graphics and art shows. Please use your unfettered imaginations. Chicago ABC will use all art work submitted in one way or another ... it is all great, needed, necessary and inspiring. Imagine a world without authorities.

Chicago ABC Benefit

JUL 20. Showing of Franz Kafka and Orson Welles' collaboration of the intense and timeless masterpiece *The Trial*. chicagoabc@azone.org.

ABC Conference in Austin

JUL 26TH-JUL 28 Austin ABC, PO Box 19733, Austin TX 78760, austinabc@hotmail.com, anarchistblackcross.org/conference. Chicago ABC will do a presentation by Anthony Rayson.

Meetings

AUG. & SEPT. Chicago ABC Zinc and event planning. We're breaking bread and trying to be good little minimalist prisoners. chicagoabc@azone.org.

PARC Art Show Project

OCT. 1ST deadline. Imagining a World without Prisons. Send to PARC, PO Box 339 Berkeley CA 94701, parc@prisonactivist.org; prisonactivist.org.

Rally Around the Jail

OCT. 20TH. Rally at Cook County Jail, 26th & California 3-5 pm. Come out. Looking for puppeteers, banner makers and propaganda artists of all anarchist stripes to participate. chicagoabc@azone.org

<http://www.azone.org/mailman/listinfo/chicagoabc>



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Chicago Anarchist Black (& Red) Cross

Always relentless, ever penetrating in analysis and advocacy.

Vision Statement of Who We Are and What We Do

Chicago ABC is a movement of organized, autonomous members who oppose and seek to abolish the systemic genocidal abuses by established authorities who make themselves Overlords of humankind, controlling the Common Man, Woman and Child through coercion and punishment. Overlords make themselves virtually immune to punishment while operating a vast punishment network meant for others. This punishment network provides jobs for millions of people, genocide and suffering to millions of others while increasing the Overlords' power, authority and sadism, turning them into Super-predators. We defeat the Super-predator punishment/legal murder industry by shining the disinfectant of sunlight upon the dark doings at their hub, the KKKourts across this land, wherein reside corrupt, rabid and murderous gatekeepers to the Gulags, Concentration Camps and Medieval Torture Chambers. We reveal its Hypocrisy and lay bare its reality through Writings, Art, Literature, Studies, and Direct Positive Actions while providing Support and Education to its Captive Prey. We call for the immediate dismantling of all punishment institutions and methods. We call for the immediate end of authority, authorities' inherent abuses and rule by force. No More Prisons. No More Punishment. No More Legal Lynchings. We lay claim to our own ability, right and responsibility to solve our own problems. We lay claim to the heart's destiny, Wild Liberty of humankind. "Wild liberty develops iron conscious."



North American Earth Liberation
Prisoners Support Network
P.O. Box 11331
Eugene, OR 97440, USA
nacsn@lao.ca
www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk

Animal Liberation Front
Support Group
Box 59697
5545 Yonge St.
Willowdale, Ontario, M2M 4K3,
Canada

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Austin, TX 78760-9733
austinabc@hotmail.com

New York City ABC
P.O. Box 20449
Tompkins Square Station
New York, NY 10009-9991
nycblackcross@hotmail.com

Vegan Prisoners Support Group
P.O. Box 194
Enfield, Middx
EN1 3HD, England

Crossroad Support Network
3420 W. 63rd St.
Chicago, IL 60629, USA
(773) 737-8679
crsn@aol.com
website:

<http://www.african.net/crossroad/>



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ABC Moncton
P.O. Box 25103
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EIC 9M9
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Mexico

ABC/Cruz Negra Anarquista
Mexico (don't put ABC on envelope)
c/o Miguel Angel Cortes O.
Apdo 17808
Mexico D.F. 11 411

Other Prisoner Support and Anti-Prison Groups

Anarchist Prisoners
Legal Aid Network
818 SW 3rd Ave
PMB 354;
Portland, OR 97204, USA
aplan@lao.ca

The Jericho Movement
P.O. Box 650
New York, NY 10009, USA
website:
www.thejerichomovement.com/

The MOVE Organization
P.O. Box 19709
Philadelphia, PA 19143, USA
(610) 499-0979
onamovellja@aol.com
website: <http://www.moveorg.net/>

Chicano Mexican Prison Project
P.O. Box 620095
San Diego, CA 92162, USA
udb2000@hotmail.com
website:
<http://bum.ucsd.edu/~udb/cmpp/>

Alvaro Luna Hernandez Defense
Committee
P.O. Box 667233
Houston, TX 77266-7233
website: www.freealvaro.org

Leonard Peltier Defense Committee
P.O. Box 583
Lawrence, KS 66044
(913) 842-5774
website: www.freepeltier.org

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Gainesville FL 32602-2671
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Houston ABC
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Houston, TX 77266-7614
website: www.houstonabc.org
houstonabc2@hotmail.com

Claustrophobia ABC
P.O. Box 1721
Baltimore, MD 21203
claustro@charm.net

Dallas/Ft. Worth ABC
P.O. Box 202846
Arlington, TX 76006
website: www.geocities.com/ronin0582/index.html
DFW_ABC@anarcho.zzn.com

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* Donations of cash & stamps used adroitly

South Chicago ABC Zine Distro
P.O. Box 721, Homewood, IL 60430

CHICAGO ABC

(Anarchist Black Cross)

1. Analyze present day prison reality and list alternative methods of dealing with criminal behavior.
2. Feature several important and worthy prisoner cases and initiatives, such as MPLU (Missouri Prison Labor Union.)
3. Provide guidance for those interested in prisoner support.
4. Transcribe and publish insightful prisoner reports, essays, analysis, poems and artwork.
5. Shine the spotlight on the perpetrators involved in the crime of punishment (lawyers, cops, judges, prosecutors, politicians, prison officials, prison developers and suppliers, etc.)
6. Describe and list prisoner support groups and available resources here in the city and around the country.
7. Educate prisoners on a wide variety of subjects, such as how to overcome self-hate, chronic criminality, recidivism, and so on. Learn how the system breeds crime and profits off of it. We'll have reports on prison struggles and social justice struggles around the country and around the world.
8. We'll put on educational forums, provide insightful literature at events, work with other groups on local prison issues and collaborate on demonstrations, rallies and other actions.
9. We'll provide prisoners basic support, such as free literature, letters and various types of inexpensive assistance.
10. We want to help prisoners become empowered and reconnected towards a fulfilling life, despite a racist, greed-based social environment. They will know they are loved and needed.

We are in support of the 2,000,000 plus prisoners in Ameriko and the millions more on probation and parole. Tens upon tens of millions of people have family members in prison. Everyone in the black community has family members in prison! The prison population has doubled in the last dozen or so years, yet the "official" crime rate has gone down a meager 5%!

"Crime" is determined and punished by the real criminals who operate the capitalist system. If you exploit workers for profit, causing death and serious injuries, while ruining the environment, cause poverty, hopelessness, hunger, homelessness - that's not crime! If you slaughter millions of people around the world, operate dangerous sweatshops, train, arm and protect death squad dictatorships - that's not crime! If you sell a crack rock in the ghetto, because the economy does not include the black community - that's crime! But if you're a rich fat white boy with a pinky ring

Prisoner Support, Revolutionary Contacts

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c/o Lukasz Pieczara
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International ABC, Anti-Prison and

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trading stocks, selling powder cocaine - you may get a little talkin' to, but you won't go to prison!

See, we've got to think entirely different from the lies always pumped into everybody. The super predators - the prosecutors, judges, lawyers, politicians, cops, goon squad guards - do all the kidnapping, torturing, ripping off and murdering, but never get charged with anything! They instead profit from their criminal behavior, and the citizens, through extortion (taxes) pay for it all! Street "crime" that the authorities use all their resources to justify their injustice system for, costs \$3 billion per year. Corporate crime (not including the government) is not prosecuted, but costs America \$200 billion per year!

Are there mean, evil, incorrigible people in prison? There's no question of that - on both sides of the cages. But, regardless of what a prisoner may or may not have done (according to these super predators) the kidnapping and caging of human beings is most certainly criminal activity regardless of all the legal "judicial" mumbo-jumbo the defendants are also forced to endure and pay enormous sums of money for (court.)

With the Fugitive Slave Laws ("Patriot") being enacted, the system is showing itself more openly. Under the guise of fighting "terrorism" new repressions and restrictions are being added to the already beyond Dantesque conditions forced upon slaves (prisoners) 24-7.

Remember, during chattel slavery it was illegal to teach slaves how to read! Why do you think the government is so preoccupied with keeping the lid on "national security" documents? They have a huge building in Washington documenting in meticulous detail all the horrible crimes perpetrated by government agents throughout the world to force things to be the way they are today - locked down! The policies of the government are only beneficial to the filthy rich. All others are criminals or "suspects."

People need to know the truth, after a lifetime of incessant lies! Black bobbies aren't born with a prison number tattooed on their skin! The world's mass murderers and super predators must be brought to justice. Our Brothers and Sisters suffering in cages, run by sick, prison gauleiters, must be set free!

As the great abolitionist Wendell Phillips once said: "It is life and death - more than life and death!" We need a new abolitionist movement to abolish modern day slavery in this country!

"I respect the rights of the poorest and weakest of colored people." - John Brown. That is where our focus should be and that means the racist hellhole dungeon prisons!

Free the American two million! With slavery there is no freedom!

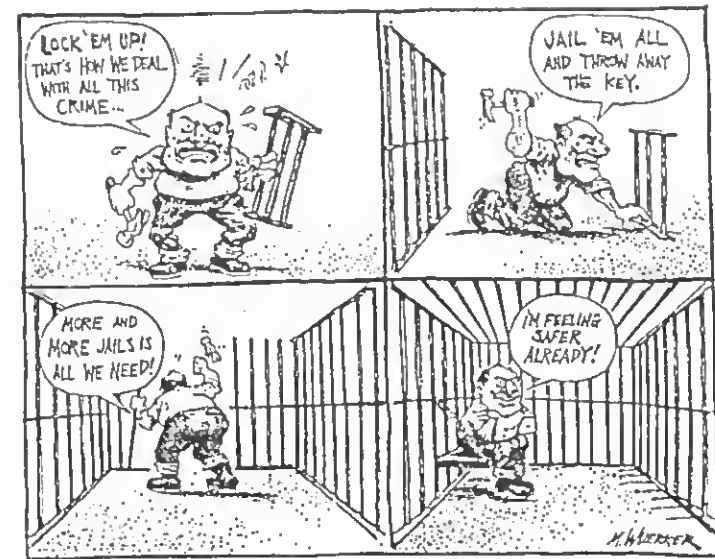
Clarence Anthony Taylor (Talib Rashid) is among the very most insightful of all of the prisoners I've been lucky enough to have worked with. He's very cerebral and has the ability to analyze the behavior of souls lost in the gulag system and how they can overcome their ingrained mentality, such as the criminal mentality, recidivism, self-hate and so on. We live in a very sick society and it produces very sick human beings, which incarceration only exacerbates. "rehabilitation" is a sick joke in prison. Only suffering, predation and punishment are offered to those condemned as "criminals."

He's written several books, essays, analysis and booklets, several of which I carry in the South Chicago ABC Zine Distro, including "The Anti-Recidivist Handbook for the 21st Century" and "The Final Release." These should be read not only by every prisoner, but everybody period - especially young blacks who are the upcoming victims of Moloch's dungeons.

He's taken the groundbreaking work of the tarsighted psychologist, Karen Horney and stripped it of all the psychological balderdash and used the gist of her message to analyze the tragedy unfolding in today's America: It's quite stunning and important work. For his altruistic efforts, he's been further punished by the prison officials of Indiana.

Like the "C" Number prisoners, Talib was given an open-ended sentence (like 20 to life) shortly before these laws were changed in the late seventies. So, he's been in prison now for 25 years for a robbery with injury. Many more heinous criminals (like murderers) have come and gone and come back, while Talib remained in prison.

He's that rare individual who has been able to completely break himself down and rebuild himself into something marvelous - despite his miserable, self-hating childhood (so common inside and outside of prison) and despite his cruel incarceration. Now, it is time for us to help him procure his long overdue freedom. Please write to him. You will not regret it. Every letter from him is a world of education about this complicated, sick world and what it is like to relate to a genuine human being. Check him out!



During the trial, the three attackers (who claimed to be Richard's "victims") admitted that they were high on crack/cocaine at the time of the incident, and that they were looking for ways to obtain more drugs. It is also known that the particular "victim" for whose minor injury Richard was convicted is a repeat offender who is currently in jail on an unrelated charge.

It is undisputed that Richard was unarmed, was not high on drugs, and did not initiate the incident in question---in other words, that he had no "criminal intent."

Please write to the judge urging him not to impose further prison-time on Richard. The judge has a number of options in this direction. These include:

- giving Richard a suspended sentence;
- sentencing him to "time served";
- ordering a new trial during which Richard could be released on bail.

Letters should be sent to:

Judge Daniel Rozak
Twelfth Judicial District Circuit Courthouse
14 West Jefferson St.
Joliet, IL 60432

Funds are needed for Richard's legal defense. Please send contributions to:

Rebecca R. Flood
c/o the Richard Flood Legal Defense Fund
3649 East 106 Street (suite 123)
Chicago, IL 60617

Letters of Support to Richard can be addressed as follows:

Richard Flood
#01-2374
WCAFD
95 South Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60436



Richard Flood is a former political prisoner who served a long term in the Illinois State system, the last few years of which were in the Tamms "Supermax" prison, to which he had been sent in reprisal for his very valuable legal and organizing work on behalf of other prisoners. He was released from Tamms in March of 2000.

Upon his release, he returned to Chicago, where he secured employment in construction (as a member of Ironworkers Local #1) and continued his political work. During his incarceration, this had included, in his own words, "'re-educating' so-called 'prison gang' members by introducing them to revolutionary political consciousness while steering them away from criminal behavior and mentality, much in the spirit of the late Black Panther Party leaders Fred Hampton and George Jackson." Since his release, he has worked with a highly regarded community organization called the MR. MALO Youth Center [MR. MALO=Managing Resources to Make Available Life's Opportunities], whose Director, John Santana, has written a glowing letter in Richard's support.

Richard's current plight results from a bizarre incident in March 2001, which landed him in jail (without bond) and facing serious charges. Here is the account from a flier distributed on his behalf: "On March 24, 2001,... Richard and his wife Rebecca stopped at a gas station [in Joliet, Illinois]. Richard returned from inside the station to find his wife being viciously attacked by three armed persons. Richard, himself unarmed, disarmed one of the attackers, and, during the course of the struggle, two of the attackers were injured. And although Rebecca herself was seriously injured, she was denied medical treatment by the authorities, who also not only refused to arrest the three attackers, but arrested Richard instead on charges of attempted murder."

Richard is being represented at trial (in Joliet) by the Chicago law firm Wigell & Associates (tel.: 708-754-2000), whose lead-attorney Raymond Wigell writes as follows: "Mr. Flood is charged with multiple counts of Aggravated Battery, a Class 3 felony in Illinois. These charges are particularly serious because Mr. Flood may be eligible for an extended sentence beyond the normal sentencing range if found guilty. Our investigation of the facts indicates that Mr. Flood was not the aggressor in this altercation, making available the affirmative defense of justifiable use of force. However, as you know, even with a trial by jury, the judicial system is seriously flawed. The presumption of innocence is beset, particularly where, as in this case, the defendant is obsequious to his political views."

Richard was kept in jail while the Prosecution repeatedly delayed the trial-date as it tried to fabricate a case against him. The verdict reached in October was as bizarre as was the pretext originally used for arresting him. Richard's use of force was found to be justified against one of the attackers but not justified against another attacker.

The trial judge, DANIEL ROZAK, did everything he could to help the Prosecution. He allowed police witnesses to offer hours of unsubstantiated testimony as to statements allegedly made by Rebecca Flood (Richard's wife), but never allowed the jury to see Rebecca's actual written statement, which said:

"We stopped at a gas station. While my husband was inside, I used the phone. As I was on the phone, three people jumped me and were beating me. Next thing I know, I heard my husband telling them to get off me and he was putting me in the car."

THE CRIME OF POLITICS IN AMERICA AND THE POLITICS OF CRIME

~ Forward ~

My last pamphlet on this subject didn't delve into the politics of crime, because I wanted people to focus on the psychology of criminality. The psychology of criminality is so deeply entrenched in the culture of America that without the primary focus and consciousness being on the mind, people in general will continue to perpetuate, or in other situations, recreate the social, political and economic psychology of crime that is so reflective of the morally bankrupt, psychopathic, corrupt men who dominate this society.

In order for society, as well as people in prison, to stop being the victims of crime turned into reactionary perpetrators or condoners of it, they must purge their minds of the political and cultural influences of moral corruption that America instills. They must rid their minds of criminal influences and then attack the culture that induces social pathology and psychopathology.

Attacking the system alone isn't a comprehensive solution. We must understand as well, the need to attack internally what the system has done to our humanity, and that was the intent of the *Anti-Recidivist Booklet*. Here I will go into the social, political and economic aspects of crime in America. I hope that by doing this, everyone will be able to form a larger, more thorough perspective of the politics of crime in America, and see how much it reaches into and across this society.

Write: Clarence Anthony Taylor #13606
Loc: 124R / IDOC / Pendleton Corr. Facility
P.O. Box 30 / Pendleton, Indiana 46064

We are truly living in a pathology ridden society and those who are the most pathological and immoral are the college educated politicians, corporate executives, etc. These are men who present their lives as being in service to the people, when in reality, they serve nothing but Mammon, the god of material wealth and influence, to the point of corruption and immorality.

In order for anything to survive, whether it be a physical or non physical entity, it must be able to reproduce. That which can't reproduce sooner or later will inevitably perish. This law applies to the mind as well. If the people that oppress and demoralize us from birth can't reproduce their values, philosophy and ideology in our minds, can't reproduce their moral bankruptcy and psychopathology in our minds as a society, then from within us a new society, a new breed of man and woman, boy and girl will begin to emerge.

I hope from this pamphlet to show you that if you love America as it is and that's your conscious choice, then you are no more than a reproduced cancer cell deserving whatever social diseases attack you. As stated by a French philosopher many decades ago: "Every society gets the criminals it deserves."

America has the most violent society in the world. I said "society" - the human population. We know also that it has the most violent government. In the 1960's with the assassination of Kennedy, Malcolm X commented that it was no more than the "chickens coming home to roost." We can look at all the social crime in America the same way. Since the founding of America, its government has urged, used and influenced the population to rape, rob, murder and steal from other people. To exploit and deceive other people, while at the same time maintaining an economic system that, at bottom, gives no one a "right" to survive at home. Since America was built on rape, robbery, enslavement, murder and exploitation, then all the criminals in its prisons, in reality, are no more than a "crystallized reflection of America's cultural essence."

Mr. Malo Youth Center

(773) 768-7750
Fax (773) 768-7523

December 11, 2001

To: The Honorable Judge Daniel Ruzak,

My name is John Santiana, I am the Executive Director of Mr. Malo Youth Club Center in Chicago. Mr. Malo specializes in gang intervention for the Southeast Side of Chicago. We work together with Community Churches, High Schools and the Chicago Area Police Department. We offer an alternative to street gangs for Area Youth's through educational assistance, leadership and empowerment training and self-esteem enrichment programs. One of our valuable assets is Richard M. Flood. He and I met many years ago on a rally against gang violence and drug intervention, where there he was a spoke's person. He has a unique ability in which enables him to communicate with people from many different walks of life and educational backgrounds. His theory is that by raising the socio-political consciousness of teen gang members we can quell the criminal mentality that is prevalent in them, before they end up in prison or dead.

Since Richard's release from prison, he has continued his committed activism through his volunteer work with the Mr. Malo Youth Center. He spends his spare time nurturing understanding their well being as disabled adults and children. He is good at mentoring and counseling troubled teens. He has been blessed with the ability to reach people who have given up on hopelessness. He also does free paralegal work for the poor. I can't say for certain what happened at that gas station on March 24, 2001, I was not there, but I can say this I know Richard is a good man. He explained to me what happened, I believed him. Also, the surrounding accusations made against Richard and Rebecca are incredibly preposterous. I'm confident that in using your experience, wisdom and common sense you will see through all the absurd and do the right thing. Please don't send Richard Flood to prison. We don't want to lose him and I humbly ask that you show mercy on his liberty so that he can continue teaching us and leading our youth's to a better way of life. Thank you and god bless.

Sincerely,



John Santiana
Executive Director

- Board Members
- Darbach Emerson
Chair Person
- Anna Escobedo
Secretary
- Richard Carrillo
Treasurer
- Thao Villalobos
C.A.T. & Paul Fribble
- Carroll Garcia
Community Representative
- Fred Santana
Executive Anna J
- Ernie M. Robinson
Executive Carmine Rodriguez
- John Santiana
Executive Director

MR MALO Youth Center
Managing Resources to Make Available Life's Opportunities

Our mission is to provide a positive alternative to the drugs, gangs and violence that our families face on the Southeast Side of Chicago by offering programs that promote self-esteem, education, employment, leadership, and empowerment.

* Complete info on these prisoner cases & initiatives is available, as is a wide assortment of dynamite zines from South Chicago ABC Zine Distrito. Drop a line.

Then one fateful day, he and Rebecca were at a Joliet 52-gos station. Richard was inside while his wife was using the pay phone. She was assaulted by three crack-addled lost souls. Richard beat them off, after they ignored his warning of them to desist. The cops came and arrested Richard for saving his wife! She had been stabbed and beaten!

He remains in Will County Jail over a year later, with still no resolution to the case. Two of three assault charges have been dropped. At a court date I went to, I found the judge in this case to be exceptionally interested in wielding his authority and repressing defendants harshly. Richard needs our support. We need him back in the community. He has a unique ability to connect with any kind of person, is fearless, articulate and totally dedicated to the cause.

Chicago Steel Erectors and Fabricators- MBE

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Chicago, IL 60620

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Email: Chicago Steel@aol.com

December 13, 2001

To: The Honorable Judge Daniel Rozak.

By way of introduction, my name is Clay Patton. I am the president of Chicago Steel Erectors and Fabricators in Chicago, IL. Our company fabricates and erects structural and ornamental steel in construction projects throughout the Chicago land area. This letter is in regards to and in behalf of my colleague fellow union member Richard M. Flood. Up until the time and date of Richards arrest in this manner, he was employed by our company as a journeyman ironworker. Due to Richards high level of skill in his craft as well as his dependability and experience, he held the position of foreman on several of our job sites. Richard comes from a well known and respected family of union ironworkers and he takes pride in his work as well as our craft, and we are fortunate to have him as a member of our team. Our company wants and needs Richard and would put him back to work immediately upon his release. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very Truly Yours,



Clay Patton- President Chicago Steel Erectors and Fabricators M.B.E

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What you see in the eyes of America's corrupt, capitalist government is America's criminality at its best. In the eyes of the serial killer, you see it at its worst. But don't you ever forget the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth: that as different as they may seem, they both specialize in deception and mass human destruction. They are both two sides of the same coin. Heads and tails.

CRIMINAL DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH

The distribution of wealth in America is so discriminatory and monopolized that it constitutes a political-economic crime against the larger portion of society, the working class and the poor. But it is mainly the poor who bear the brunt of "taxation with no representation." This is despite them paying the same percentage of tax dollars from their wage labor earnings, for example, (which is less than 50% of the tax dollars used to educate suburban children or used to educate the poor!) This is a gross injustice.

With the assault on welfare, and the state and federal gutting of programs for the poor, an increasing number of tax dollars are being used to increase the already unearned salaries of politicians and bureaucrats. All you have to do is examine the lack of work they do in proportion to the tens of thousands they are paid from the coffers of taxation and you will discover the real welfare system. A few years ago, 60 Minutes exposed the fact that hundreds of the Washington "in crowd" have \$70,000 per year positions that require them to do nothing at all. Absolutely nothing!

Tax dollars have been used to build gyms and spas with free personal trainers for the benefit of Senators and Congressmen in DC. They divert millions of tax dollars a year to fund personal preference projects and programs for constituents in their home states, etc., while there's a lack of funds for programs to uplift the poor and make the expense of living less burdensome for hard workers who produce and sustain society. America is morally sick! Na more in its prisons than all throughout society and government.

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There are countries in this world where violent crime is almost non-existent. Why? Because wealth from taxes is distributed in a more equitable manner. People's basic human needs are not ruthlessly neglected by government. If the various forms of exploitation that exist in America are not necessary. Society isn't necessarily plagued by the illness created and perpetrated by classist exploitation - one group over another. All of these sicknesses are ones that the American public are programmed to think are natural social phenomena! They are not natural, they're cultural pathologies!

In America, the gross yearly income for a minimum wage worker is less than \$12,000. For a member of Congress, it is over \$140,000 - paid for from tax coffers (excluding "perks.") How is it that the people who are supposed to be making the lives of average citizens better are making over ten times the salary of a minimum wage worker? While - we must acknowledge - the average person's life isn't getting any better?

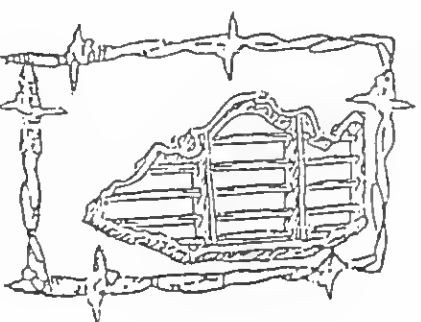
So, if the average person's life isn't getting any better, any safer, or any more secure, how is it that members of Congress should be earning over ten times the minimum wage? They are earning a salary of over fifty dollars an hour, while the minimum wage has not doubled in over a quarter of a century! Is this or is this not a criminal distribution of the wealth produced by the workers in America???

How many of us with common sense, would actually pay someone \$50 per hour to keep us struggling to meet basic needs and keep us in a socio-economic rut? Would we pay this outlandish wage to deregulate the power industry, so that we have to pay more for electricity? The list goes on!

In the country of Denmark, a maid earns more than a policeman. A member of Parliament earns a little less than double a maid's salary. This basically shows the equity of earnings in society. The government does keep you poor because you're a maid or a waiter and makes you ten

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the outside coordinator and will help publish and distribute their organ, *Off The Hook* and broadcast their message. It's an honor to be a part of this collective! We should strive to free the slave laborers in the gulags and sweatshops throughout the entire world!

CHICAGO'S OWN RICHARD FLOOD



I've had the distinct pleasure of corresponding and discussing ideas of a very seriously important nature with Richard Flood for a few years now - since he was still locked down in that southern Illinois torture chamber, simply known as Tamms.

Incredibly, he was released - only the third person ever released alive from Tamms. He and his fiancée came to visit with me and he had a plan to actively work to enlighten and politicize the so-called "gangs."

This, he went right ahead and did. He got married, got a job as a steelworker and began to spread his knowledge and advice freely and prolifically. He worked with John Santana of Mr. Malo Youth Center (Managing Resources to Make All Life's Opportunities.) He counseled mostly hispanic youth and worked to empower them and help them gain self-respect, acquire skills, and learn how to avoid as best as possible the body snatchers of the state and stay out of prison or if released to remain out of prison and work to fashion a productive life - despite the ongoing incarceration frenzy.

Jerome White Bey has spearheaded an incredible and sustained initiative that goes to the heart of this slave system - the treatment of constitution sanctioned slave labor. For, prisoners are considered eligible for legal slavery according to the 14th Amendment. That's the Amendment that supposedly ended slavery!

Prisoners are often forced to labor and treated as slaves. Sometimes they're shackled while they are working! They have no rights as workers, such as collective bargaining, the right to form unions, not being forced to work in dangerous environments or while being sick, etc.

Even prisoners who may make close to the paltry minimum wage, are only allowed to receive 1/5 of this, which they can only use to purchase wildly marked-up and inferior products through the prison commissary.

Jerome White Bey, Bruce (Yero) Cummings, Sheik M. Moore El and the other brave prisoners and supporters are fighting for *all* workers enslaved by this extreme capitalist system. For their courage and sacrifice, (Jerome is a serious anarchist) they have suffered unmercifully at the hands of the repressive authorities down in Missouri gulag system, including extended stays without charges or reasons in the hole, constant threats, disruption of communication (rampant system-wide) assaults (Bruce has been assaulted twice by knife-wielders lately, intimidation (after Bruce's second attack, a guard brought his assailant by Jerome's cell!) constant transfers, etc., etc. But defiant and true to their brothers and sisters they remain!

It's high time people focus on this cause and show support for these courageous prisoners, who are at the crux of what anarchy is fighting for - freedom from slavery!

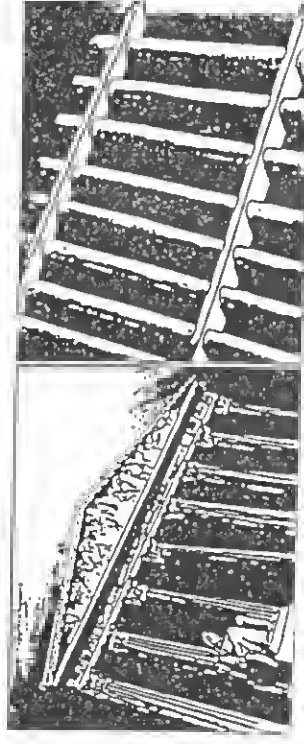
These men hold a special place in my heart as they went the extra mile to console me in the wake of my father's death in January of '01. So, I have agreed to be

times as wealthy just because you're a legislator. The distribution of wealth in America by the U.S. government is corrupt and criminal and therefore, it produces economic and social conditions that encourage criminality in people who would not otherwise be involved in such activity.

The wealth of corporations is criminally distributed. Look at the difference in earnings between the workers and the CEO's. While a worker may earn thirty or forty thousand a year, the CEO (who produces nothing by way of physical labor) earns tens of millions!

As long as there is a prevailing injustice in the broad distribution of wealth, America will be plagued with crime. America gives more tax dollars to the Israeli military in secrecy than it does to fight poverty and homelessness here in America!

Just this year, a bill was passed that contained a multi-million dollar military aid package to Israel, while all the time, on the surface, all we hear about is US encouragement of "peace talks!" Is this, too, a criminal distribution of wealth created by workers? Yes it is! And this is only a small glimpse of the crime of politics and the politics of crime in America.



IN JUST US

CHICAGO ABC
c/o South Chicago ABC Zine Distributors
P.O. Box 721, Homewood, IL 60430

CHICAGO ABC
c/o South Chicago ABC Zine Distributors
P.O. Box 721, Homewood, IL 60430

Abolish All Prisons!

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Prison abolition is a basic tenet of anarchist thought. The prison system (punishment industry) is the worst of all the hideous, authoritarian institutions. And the brainwash against and vilification of "prisoners" is most intense from mainstream liars - rivaling that of the dreaded "anarchist."

So, let's get reacquainted with a basic anarchist given - the prisons must be opened, the slaves set free and the system abolished for any hope of realizing a just and free society. This horrible system is at the epicenter of oppression, coercion, control, racism, classism - all things fascist - that is the bedrock of the American system. Indeed, slavery (of prisoners) is still openly spelled out in the U.S. Constitution (14th Amendment.)

Peter Kropotkin wrote:

"ANARCHISM, is the name given to a principle or theory of life and conduct under which society is conceived without government - harmony in such a society being obtained, not by submission to law, or by obedience to any authority, but by free agreements concluded between the various groups, territorial and professional, freely constituted for the sake of production and consumption, as also for the satisfaction of the infinite variety of needs and aspirations of a civilized being..."

If, it is contended, society were organized on these principles, man would not be limited in the free exercise of his powers in productive work by a capitalist monopoly, maintained by the state; nor would he be limited in exercise of his will by a fear of punishment, or by obedience towards individuals or metaphysical entities, which both lead to depression of

Flood Kempker With Letters!

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MPLU Notice For Women Prisoners (To Join, To Unionize, To Fight Back)

The Missouri Prisoners Labor Union (M.P.L.U.) is an organization that fights against oppression, repression, torture, brutality, rape, corruption and exploitation of prisoners, both male and female. We are prison abolitionists - we do not support the concept of prisons. We'll struggle to improve our conditions.

In this struggle we seek to regain our human dignity. We will seek to remove legislation which acts as a barrier to a prisoner's right to vote. We seek to enforce worker's compensation laws for prisoners. We'll work to procure the minimum wage pay scale for all prisoners - to abolish all abuses of prisoners throughout the U.S. and around the world. Our goal is to organize all prisoners, wherever they may be confined. We must organize as workers! I understand that many have forgotten our sisters in struggle who populate the women's prisons. We are appealing to the women prisoners to join with us to fight for the issues and concerns that pertain particularly to women prisoners. Your fight is all of our fight. We have the same enemy. So, if there are any women prisoners who wish to join, contact and educate the MPLU to unionize themselves and expand the struggle for prisoner rights, please contact us. Outside supporters needed. Thankyou!

Jerome White-Bey #37479 (President)

Bruce (Yero) Cummings #36911 (National Representative)

Jefferson City Correction Center

P.O. Box 900 Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Sheik M. Moore El #990115 (National Coordinator)

PCC Rt. 2 Box 2222 Mineral Point, MO 63660

New York City ABC has agreed to assume the role of
MPLU outside coordinator and will publish Off the Hook.
POB 20449 Tompkins Sq. Station, New York, NY 10009

Vikki Low - Director of Women Section / MPLU
P.O. Box 20388 New York, New York 10009

REMEMBER!

THEY'RE IN THERE FOR US.
LET'S BE THERE FOR THEM.

Tennessee Department of Correction's mail policy contains a "publishers only" restriction on receipt of any type of publication. This defines as no individual, family member, or any person can send directly to an inmate any kind of publication. All publications must be sent directly from the publisher or, to use the policy's wordings from "a recognized distributor." No provision is made for receipt of used books, small not for-profit distributors or self publishers. An inmate within Tennessee Department of Correction theoretically would not be allowed to receive the family Bible if sent from a family member. I don't believe there is a legitimate penological or neutral government objective associated with the publishers only rule? Logically it would take a competent Tennessee Department of Correction mail room employee the same amount of time to inspect a new book for contraband as it would the same book in used form? You will in all likelihood hear inspection time constraint burden arguments regarding mail room personnel if publications from any source was allowed receipt by prisoners. You will in all likelihood hear about the extra burden of expense of hiring additional mail room personnel just to handle a massive increase in mail volume if used printed material would be allowed but both arguments would be smoke screens. To make such determinations the usual process is drawing facts from an existing situation not manufacturing "facts" to fit or avoid a potential situation. I would imagine the same amount of books and magazines would arrive and it would be cheaper for those sending them as they would not be forced to order new books from publishers for prisoners who pay inflated book store prices to have books mailed from these businesses to prisoners. I would hazard to guess denying books and publications from nonprofit distributors but allowing receipt of books and publications from for profit publishers and book stores by Tennessee Department of Correction facilities mail rooms infringes on my 1st amendment rights and guarantees.

To: Gary B. Kempker
Director, Missouri Department of Corrections
PO Box 236
Jefferson City, MO 65102

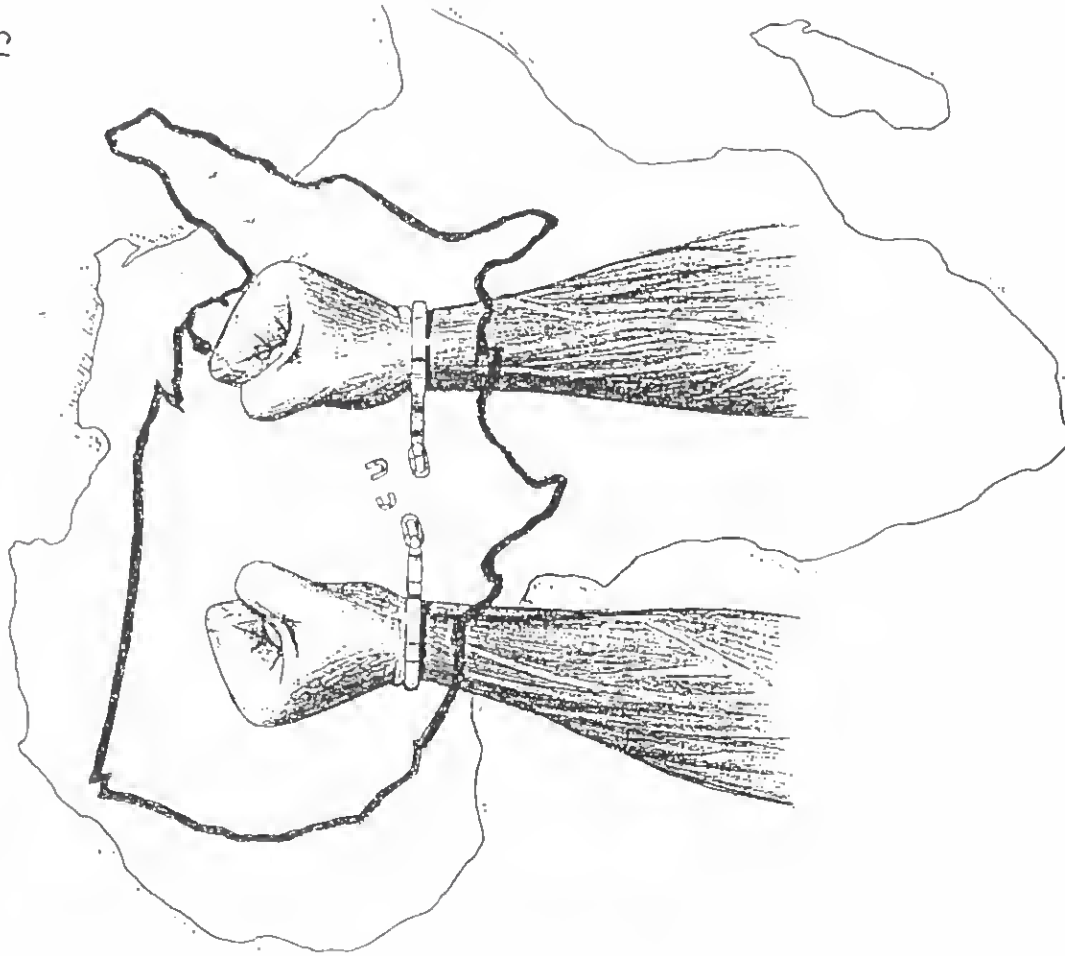
Dear Mr. Kempker,

I am writing to bring your attention to the mistreatment and possible abuse of Jerome White-Bey, #37479, presently incarcerated at the Jefferson City Correctional Center. Mr. White-Bey has been confined to administrative segregation indefinitely. The facility's Superintendent Dormire has attempted to justify this action by claiming that Mr. White-Bey is confined in administrative segregation due to a history of assault. However, Mr. White-Bey's prison record will show that prior to the August 28th, 2001, incident in which Mr. White-Bey saved the life of a prisoner who was being stabbed by another inmate, he had not received a conduct violation report since September 1986.

I demand that your office investigate this matter immediately and thoroughly. I believe that the only reason that Superintendent Dormire is keeping Mr. White-Bey in segregation is because of his political views and his involvement in organizing and leading the Missouri Prisoners Labor Union. I am demanding that Jerome White-Bey be released from segregation and, in light of his harassment of Mr. White-Bey, that Mr. Dormire resign from his position as superintendent of Jefferson City Correctional Center immediately.

Cc: Jerome White-Bey #37479
Jefferson City Correctional Center
PO Box 900 SC-146
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Sincerely,



initiative and servility of mind. He would be guided in his actions by his own understanding, which necessarily would bear the impression of a free action and reaction between his own self and the ethical conceptions of his surroundings. Man would thus be enabled to obtain the full development of all his faculties, intellectual, artistic and moral, without being hampered by overwork for the monopolists, or by the servility and inertia of mind..."

Proudhon wrote "property is theft." All laws in America are basically based on the bogus legitimacy for the protection of private property, which was originally conquered from the Indians in a two continent-wide, centuries-long genocide. Every single treaty entered into with the Indians was violated unmercifully by the U.S. government, so they could massacre more people and steal more land!

Bakunin wrote that the state must be abolished. Being a product of religion, it belongs to a lower state of civilization and represents the negativity of liberty and spoils even that which it undertakes to do for the sake of general well-being. It's sole purpose is to protect wealth, greed and power.

Many people think that government is necessary to maintain "peace" and administer "justice." But governments have killed more people and stolen more land, goods and labor (along with capital) than all individuals combined, many, many times over. In fact, because of our government, our whole lives are threatened with any minute nuclear annihilation, big brother fascism, environmental meltdown and prison.

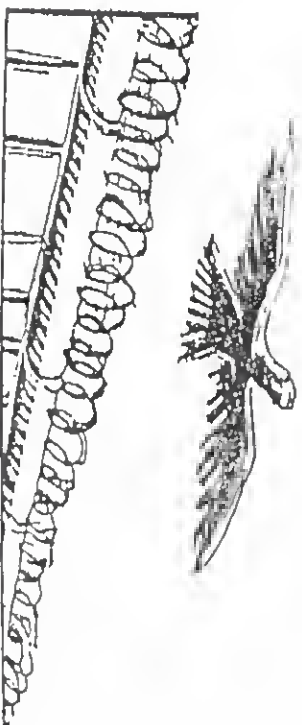
Government and law enforcement breed crime - poverty, racism, sexism, alienation, predation. More laws and more prisoners have no effect on crime because the real criminals are the super-predators who run the state backed institutions, and they don't prosecute themselves, except in rare instances. The most heinous and publicized incidents, (such as the Abner Louima case,) are half-heartedly prosecuted and the offenders given wrist slaps.

The conditions that breed crime are never dealt with, because those conditions are what the state relies on to accumulate their ill-gotten wealth and to maintain their power. The economy (capitalism) is a theft-based, criminal system, which rewards the monied regardless of how they've stolen their wealth. Government is

The political ideology aspect of this trial boils down to state officials fear of thought. Thought! As '1984' Orwellian and absurd as that sounds in these enlightened new millennium times! Unlike Mister Scopes teaching evolutionist theory, I don't teach anarchism. I don't discuss it with others unless asked a specific question. I was taught as a child a person's religion and politics are private matters. I simply want to be permitted to sit quietly and read about anarchism, animal rights issues and environmental issues, to enjoy freedom of thought. I simply want to be able to communicate with like minded people. If I engage in criminal activity via the mail I see nothing wrong with law enforcement authorities prosecuting me. However I don't wish to be persecuted nor punished due to my politics by incoming mail withheld due to a ridiculous fear of political ideology, an idea repugnant to prison authorities.

OBSCENE PUBLICATION ISSUE:

There will be things said about publications containing nudity referred to as obscene and my position on that is the proper testing guidelines set by the Supreme Court to determine if publications lack as a whole *serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value* is not followed before the arbitrary rejection of entire publications. You will, in all likelihood, hear mention of inferred child pornography as a nudist publication received from Canada which publishes a semi-monthly column I write sometimes contains photography which may have a child with their parents at this nudist camp. These photographs are not meant to appeal to any type of sexual deviation. I am not convicted of a sex offense nor am I a child molester. I have changed many diapers in my time. Big deal... We all know not every depiction of nudity is obscene. Not every photograph with a nude child in it is child pornography. If that is the case my parents, both deceased, would have to be considered child pornographers as their family album contained a photo of me in a diaper hat at three years old which was later used like a weapon to embarrass me in front of my freckled faced dates as a teenager. If the standard is that any photo with child nudity in it is pornographic then many popular women's monthly magazines with body art or skin lotion advertisements would have to be deemed child pornography. Some of my magazines withheld was male oriented material. One of several magazines rejected from an England distributor was a 'Hustler' magazine. Ironically 'Hustler' was specifically mentioned in the United States Supreme Court decision that determined the obscenity issue test and how it is to be handled by prison administrators but evidently Tennessee Department of Correction have either never read that high court decision or refuse to comply with it. It doesn't matter why it is not followed but only that it is not followed to the letter of the law.



one of the defendants stated under oath answering a written interrogatory the departmental mail policy does not address animal rights and environmentalist literature in the rejection criteria it contains. However a Tennessee Department of Correction mail room employee looked at the printed material when it arrived in mail, instinctively knew or suspected it was anarchist material so it ended up at one of the defendants to this action for a decision to reject it due to "anarchy" content. Further, anarchist publications denied to me was received by another Tennessee Department of Correction prisoner who swore to this fact in a statement made under penalty of perjury. It is ironic anarchism literature isn't deemed a threat to public security. Why is it only in a system of incarceration with people under close scrutiny, supervision, and surveillance such a threat is perceived? In my opinion Tennessee Department of Correction's administrators are blaming anarchism literature for the failure of their own policies which is patently ridiculous.

Power is based on perception, self-image, obfuscation and mystification. On a day-to-day basis most of us are not controlled by laws. We know they exist but they don't control our every action. We are instead controlled by intelligence, common sense, habit and a concept of right versus wrong. It could be observed we live in a symbolic fog, unconsciously and uncritically obeying laws and rules we had no part in making, that don't always serve what we believe are our best or community interests. Power is self-hypnosis, it is our selves used against us and sometimes governments abuse that power as history is abundant with examples. I am here in court today about what I consider, think and believe to be an arbitrary abuse of power. I believe I have a legitimate interest in receiving political literature of my choice, embracing a politics of my choice, and in freely communicating with those with similar beliefs as long as I am not breaking the law in any way. I believe I should be allowed to communicate with an anarchist group that provides legal information, if in no other way than providing funds for law books or searching out requested legal decisions on the internet at resource sites for use by anarchist prisoners. It is the Anarchist Prisoners Legal Aid Network. I fail to see any other legal aid organization symbolically knocking on the prison gates offering help through the mail.

State government has care, custody and control of my body 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and 366 days on leap years. My movement is monitored. I am told when to eat, sleep, shower, all aspects of my life are controlled to some varying extent. All but my mind is monitored but even there it appears there exists an apparent desire to control my thought, deny me access to ideas, to not only stifle free speech but stomp on it. Why? Because of fear of an idea, a political ideology abrasive and repugnant to prison officials. There appears to exist fear of inmate possession of a political idea and evidently a fear of people communicating about it! One defendant stated under oath approximately 10 Tennessee Department of Correction prisoners, out of somewhere between 22,000-25,000, receive anarchist animal rights and environmental movement literature. This is a percentage of those receiving such materials of 1/2200 or 1/2500 of the entire state's prison population which is hardly a significant threat, or even a real threat. With that small percentage it sounds like much ado about nothing! The small number receiving these kinds of printed matter really doesn't matter. It is the idea evidently feared but in trying to crush it out by denying printed material one of life's truths is being ignored! The fastest way to make an idea, or malicious rumor, spread like wildfire is to attempt to suppress it!

massive, organized crime! An orgy of violence and institutionalized theft already occurs, at government insistence, every single day throughout the country and throughout the world.

Laws supposedly establish rights, privileges and powers of government, regulate the economy, control private activities on "moral" grounds, enforce one-sided contracts and prohibit harmful to individuals, activities by other individuals, but not by the state or capital or other institutions. The laws only really apply to poor people and are heavily weighted as to race, which is a phony non-existent category, used to justify slavery.

Laws solve nothing! No government can grant people rights. They can only take them away. They hold our natural rights hostage!

Let's get back to prison abolition. Angela Davis wrote:

"What does 'crime' mean? The only thing that it means is that it is 'against the law.' So, Blacks and Latinos are criminals, while other groups doing the same thing, are not. More than 1/2 of those in jail are nonviolent 'violators.' The mentally ill are in prison. There is no structure to help the poor and uneducated. Women on welfare go to prison. Immigrants without proper papers go to prison. The INS is the largest armed group of federal agents - even larger than the FBI! Women surviving domestic violence, go to prison. The most pervasive epidemic in the world are crimes against women!

Punishment has become part of our culture. Children go to school to be punished and not to learn. They encounter security guards, metal detectors, book bag searches, etc. They are learning how to move on from high school to the Big House! Punishment supplants all other institutions!

One out of three young black men are in 16
some part of the prison system. One out of
eight Latinos, too. Yet, 'racism' is no longer
a serious problem! These 'criminals' contain a
'lack of ambition' and a 'pathology.' They
spend the most important years of their lives in
prison."

Street crime happens, a lot, in this
country of "haves" and "have-nots." Much of it
goes unreported and under 10% of reported crime
results in arrest. Most arrests occur by chance
(opportunity) as an officer confronts somebody.
It is totally arbitrary and heavily weighted as
to race. Everybody breaks many of the millions
of laws, many times over, every single day.
Conjuring up charges is very easy. So,
prosecution is extremely selective, although
still affecting huge sectors of society (like
the 1/3 of all young black men!)

Massive corporate and governmental crime -
theft, kidnapping, terror, deprivation, slavery,
confinement and murder - is not prosecuted,
making the whole system a mad mockery of
"justice." The judicial system is controlled
and run by the world's worst criminals, who
profit wildly from it. It is the antithesis of
"justice!"

State punishment (incarceration/torture) is
a total failure as a preventative means to
control crime. Forcibly depriving people of
their freedom is crime, not it's solution!
Here's a quote from a pamphlet entitled "The
Anarchist Solution to the Problem of Crime" but
out by the SRAF collective, in 1979.

"Crime is as natural to our kind of
coercive society as cirrhosis of the liver is to
an alcoholic. Western civilization has for
thousands of years inflicted on its children a
morality that torments the mind with fear of
punishment, frustration, self-loathing, rage.

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What is being put on trial here is an idea, a political theory, Anarchism ideology. Logically
during this trial much is to be said about Anarchism printed material if in prison inmate possession poses
a perceived threat to orderly operation and security of institutions. My opinion is that such an argument
is, to use an apt descriptive word, hogwash! If prisoners' possession of such printed material and being
allowed to discuss political issues with others of like politics through the mail poses a legitimate threat of
'any kind to order or security of any state penal institution, if their contentions are true, then I wish to
hear fact specific details of when such incidents happened, not merely vague innuendoes or profound
judgmental proclamations replete with words like 'might', 'may', 'or 'could'! I want to see or hear
documented proof of incidents, not conjectures, exaggerations or questionable speculations followed by
"what ifs". I want to hear facts not word play smoke screens. You may hear the reason there are no
documented incidents is because Anarchism literature is banned. I see something constructively faulty
and wrong with such logic and could respond with a like quantum leap of logic which makes as much
sense to me. I could say I've invented a mustard plaster I wear on my chest repugnant to Tibetan yaks
and the fact I haven't been charged and trampled by a yak is my proof the mustard plaster works! I took
the same license with the truth as state officials do on anarchism literature posing a threat and hopefully
you won't believe my mustard plaster story or their inherently faulty logic! Show facts not conjecture!

I will give you some facts. Anarchism's political theory articulates a more or less coherent
framework for understanding why resistance is to be expected. Reaching with imitation or even outrage
to the exercise of obvious arbitrary authority is what I consider to be natural and human. Anarchism
entails a relentless critique of power, whether power derives from a 'legitimate' or 'illegitimate' source.
I think we all realize power frowns on criticism. Resistance to the arbitrary and capricious nature of
authority and power is older than the theory of anarchism. It is those who directly suffer oppressive
conditions who understandably resist. They do not need a poem, magazine, book, newspaper or letter
to provide inspiration for resistance. Nothing anyone writes can compel prisoners to want their captors
to behave humanely; they just have to confront their suffering at the hands of those with power to
control their every activity. No printed word can incite anyone with common sense and intelligence to
do anything they don't want to do in the first place. The sole reason for people becoming 'incited' is
the reality of their individual belief system being affronted, the strength of their convictions put to the
test on a specific issue and their sincere dedication to the beliefs they dearly hold to in the face of, and
when confronted by, adversity. Strongly held, sincere belief and conviction are the sole factors that
prompt people to whatever action, or inaction, they decide to display in specific circumstances and
situations. I have been inspired to action by only two specific types of printed word. They are the Bible
and the Constitution of the United States. That inspiration brought me to this courthouse today.

Tennessee Department of Correction has banned receipt of anarchism literature by prisoners.
The decision to ban receipt of anarchist literature in its prisons is ironic because anarchism literature is
not banned from general public consumption nor in some other state and federal prisons. Nor is this
ban uniformly enforced in Tennessee Department of Correction prisons, or if it is then it is not done on a
consistent basis, lending credibility to an argument the definition of 'anarchy' set forth in Tennessee
Department of Correction mail policy is over broad and vague to the extent reasonable people can, and
do, differ on meaning. I know this is true as animal rights and environmentalist movement publications,
as evidenced by the defendants' exhibits, has been rejected due to 'anarchy' content even though policy
does not state anything in policy about this type of printed matter. I take that fact from a good source as

When I hear of acts of civil disobedience, riots by demonstrators, or by law enforcement authorities in response to demonstrations, I'm curious about what caused those on opposing sides of an issue to clash. I want to learn about all sides' of an issue, all sides of an equation, to learn about the catalyst which escalated a heated situation to the point of violence. Only after all the facts are in can I then make an informed decision, or choice, of which side of the issue I identify with at the place where the rubber hits the road. I refuse to accept one side over the other without knowing all of the details. I refuse to display blind acceptance of any side of any issue I am not knowledgeable. I refuse to accept I am expected to subscribe to the reasoning of one side and not be permitted to acquaint myself with that of the other. Isn't this what this country is supposed to be about? The freedom to seek knowledge, to learn and choose according to our own dictates without acts of persecution against us by government? In this case state government, represented by the defendants, wishes to have a distinction made between the rights of prisoners and the free to embrace a particular politics and wishes to restrict access to political literature. When government at any level, anywhere, in the streets or prisons, can dictate to individuals which politics a person can, or cannot, subscribe to then democracy has taken a holiday, has gone the way of the dinosaurs... There is not a wall between the Constitution and prisoners. Prisoners are supposed to have all the rights of ordinary citizens except those expressly taken away due to imprisonment. A prisoner's ability to think and choose is not taken away after prison gates close behind them exiting them from society and separating them from family and friends. Some prisoners even retain the right to vote further buttressing a legitimate argument the government should not favor one form of politics over another with its' captives.

As my choice of a political ideology I embrace anarchism. My choice of politics is abrasive and repugnant to prison officials. I do not embrace it due to a desire to destroy. I embrace it because I'm an optimist. I believe man is capable of governing himself. Maybe I'm a dreamer but if I am I have a right to my dreaming if that is indeed the case! I don't believe the worse in man would evidence itself but the best would rise to the surface if there was no government as we presently know it. I'll briefly explain about Anarchism. The politics of Anarchism is a political preference which is taught about on college campuses as an alternative political ideology. Anarchism is an old political ideology with its roots in the working class and great thinkers. Michel Bakunin, Pierre Proudhon, Peter Kropotkin (Kropotkin's 'Conquest of Bread' and Bakunin's 'God and the State' is required reading on civil or government courses at some colleges), James Godwin, Malatesta, Colin Ward, Rudolph Rocker, George Woodcock, Alexander Berkman and Emma Goldman to name but a few of the great Anarchist authors. Contrary to popular belief and media sensationalism the politics of anarchism isn't running wild in the streets committing mayhem, performing acts of terrorism, creating all manner of chaos, throwing bombs or perpetrating senseless acts of violence. Anarchism is man taking responsibility for self and others instead of paying the government gang to do it for you. There are as many diverse views of anarchism as there are anarchists. There are those labeling themselves as federated anarchists, anarcho-primitivists, anarcho-syndicalists, anarchist purists, etc., many schools of anarchism thought.

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Morality doesn't make people behave themselves, it creates the inner conflicts and repressed rages that provoke crime. Socially sanctioned violence provides a model and often a justification for criminal violence."

So, what's the alternative? How do we deal with aberrant, harmful, criminal behavior in a society, once the criminal government, coercive institutions and their prisons are abolished? For, although the crime-breeding apparatus will no longer be functioning, some people will still resort to crime.

Anarchists make a basic assumption. Human nature is not inherently dangerous and in need of control. Like any animal, people will develop cooperative, loving, mutually beneficial social relations - with a few exceptions - if not conditioned and coerced into a society based on lies, fear, greed, deprivation and punishment.

A society without authority will be better, but does not claim to eliminate predation, for coercion and its threat very often works, if theft and control is the intent.

Freedom is not a license to wreak havoc on your fellow man. It is an overthrowing of oppression, which allows one to pursue his or her natural instincts, which are loving relationships and pursuing interests and developing talents - enjoying one's life and establishing a useful purposefulness.

Man is a highly social animal and finds satisfaction in harmonious interactions. Perverse, aberrant behavior is that which seeks wealth and power via control and suffering of the many, along with all the heavily inculcated indifference to the fate of the children of the future, other species and indeed, the viability of Earth herself!

Violent people are created by sick childrearing. babies aren't born criminals.

ANARCHIST MATERIAL ISSUE:

Repression, punishment, coercion, in a hopeless poverty-wracked, menaced by police, vicious, 13 opportunity-less environment breed bitterness, rage, self-hate and violence. You raise a dog with love, it's a good dog. You raise it to be mean, it will be a vicious dog.

In a nonviolent society, bad people will still exist. how do we deal with them? Here's some methods:

- 1) ostacism
- 2) public denunciation (& possibly forgiveness)
- 3) restitution to the victim(s)
- 4) persuasion
- 5) education
- 6) social pressure
- 7) non compulsory therapy
- 8) help of friends and neighbors
- 9) non-collaboration
- 10) nonviolent resistance

These methods work to great effect to defuse many a volatile situation, such as a domestic explosion or social situation. The introduction of authorities (such as the police with guns, clubs, gas, etc.) almost invariably only serves to aggravate the situation. If the troublemaker is hurt, killed or taken into custody, this puts a huge strain (financially, emotionally, physically, psychologically) on the family and the now confined captive. It's meant to instill fear in the community, as well.

The state forcibly disallows many of these methods to be used, so it can force its "cure" - punishment - onto the situation, which trumps the "crime" with state crime, which it turns into a money-making industry. Each prisoner costs more (to the taxpayers) per year than it does to send a student to Harvard!

When a glimpse of true freedom (anarchy) blooms, such as the Paris Commune or in the Ukraine (1918-1920) or Spain, circa (1936-1939)

In July of 1925 a school teacher named John Scopes went on trial in the small town of Dayton, Tennessee, accused of a violation of state law. His alleged crime was teaching the theory of evolution to his class in this state. The prosecutor advocating teaching only the religious doctrine Man is of Divine creation and an advocate of the complete rejection of teaching Darwin's theory of evolution in Tennessee's schools was William Jennings Bryan. Mister Scopes was defended by Clarence Darrow, a famous attorney of his time. Of course in the social climate of 1925 Scopes was convicted and sentenced to a moderate fine. Eventually, partially due to the worldwide publicity the trial received, the anti-evolution statutes was repealed and struck from state law. Tennessee society had evolved to the point of intellectual rejection solely the origin of Man set forth in Biblical passages was the only explanation of Man's creation. The counsels in what would become commonly known as the "Scopes Monkey Trial" argued their respective sides of the then controversial issue fueled by their individual beliefs.

Like both counsels in State of Tennessee versus Scopes I'm arguing today about an issue I feel strongly about as it involves the pinnacle of human growth. At issue is the right of the mind to grow while the body it resides in lives in a negative prison environment. My future ability to seek and realize intellectual growth will be determined in these proceedings. I view the opposition position as a litmus test by a state government department to determine if prisoners will docilely stand by and allow the usurping of a fundamental constitutional right arbitrarily. I believe the 1st Amendment was specifically incorporated into the Constitution of the United States to protect all citizens' right to seek information and grow intellectually without abusive government interference, government restricting those rights or government creating prior restraints to chill the ability to seek and receive information by insulating state government department policies denying access to literature, printed word, and thought. I believe the 1st Amendment was specifically written to protect freedom of religion, provide and protect freedom of speech, inclusive of political speech in whatever form, and to allow for a free exchange of ideas among citizens in a democracy. This is precisely how this country advertises itself to the world. I recognize no distinction between the minds of those free and those imprisoned when it comes to seeking information, growth, learning from one another, and exchanging ideas. A quest for intellectual growth is a continual, ongoing, lifelong pursuit of intelligent people.

There are many issues, and interpretations of issues, important to our lives. By far in importance are issues dealing with the quality of life and ability to grow as human beings. Sometimes government actions show it harbors a different interpretation than those living under that government of rights and issues with those interpretations often influenced by political trends. I have found in life through these are two, often more, sides to everything, all issues, all stories. To believe otherwise would be to accept as gospel truth four great lies of our time. "Y2K will change life as we know it!"; "The check is in the mail!"; "This item is 100% guaranteed to work as advertised."; and, "Hello, I am from the government and I'm here to help you." My side is I believe I have a fundamental right to freely exchange ideas with free individuals of the same political preference as my own. My side is I believe I have a fundamental right to receive printed material dealing with my choice of political ideology.

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 legal contest with far-reaching implications for every prisoner held in U.S. jails nationwide, particularly those prepared to stand up and fight the system from behind cell bars. There is increasing likelihood it will finish up in the U.S. Supreme Court for final resolution. Harold needs funds urgently to carry on this fight. He remains convinced the struggle can, and indeed, must be won, and an awful lot of hope is riding on his endeavours. If the case folds through lack of resources then prisoners right across the U.S.A. will be the losers. Please help if you can with donations to: 'Friends of Harold H. Thompson.' P.O. Box 375, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey GU21 2XL, England.

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... STAND AND RESIST!
 ANARCHY IS EQUALITY.

19
 and people begin to implement these liberating principles into everyday life, the forces of authority, the fascists, democrats or communists (statists) take turns and sometimes unite to wreak concentrated genocide on the finally free citizens, so afraid these humane ways of living would fire the imagination of all others, exposing their systems for what they are - sick.

Massive incarceration, the modern day American "frenzy to incarcerate" which is the term even mainstream experts on incarceration label it, devastates millions of families, neighborhoods, communities, cities - the whole country. We all have to live with the reality and threat of these official - immune to prosecution themselves - bullies and kidnappers. We are forced to bankroll their crime with our taxes - like a giant, unavoidable, constant country-wide mafia-run extortion racket.

Some anarchists believe totally in nonviolence and others believe that self-defense is sometimes necessary. A criminal does not fear retaliation by the state, as the state's response is so vast, cumbersome, and so divorced from reality. Only a small percent of individual crimes (and none of the organized crimes) are actually dealt with. A criminal may, however, fear retaliation by the victim! Communities can establish local defense groups to be used only defensively against these predators. Of course, in this society, these types of groups are subject to harassment and arrest by the authorities who insist on total domination of their forces over all citizens.

State force keeps property rights intact. The rich keep what they've stolen and the poor are denied access to much of what the world has to offer. A society without coercive authority, doesn't mean people can't or won't enter into voluntary agreements (rules) to better pursue a life and social relations based on enlightened self-interest and the interests of the community.

Indeed, it is what people throughout the 20

world do to make their lives better, despite the constant menace of state authority.

This means people recognize the rights of others. People should not be deprived of life's necessities, nor be forced into a sort of Stalinist "collectivization" where controllers force, phony, brutal "equality."

People are perfectly willing, even

enthusiastic about doing necessary, productive work if it is not alienating and/or forced.

They want and deserve a participatory voice in these projects, which makes them complete and inclusive - genuine!

A good society should be run like a loving family - with input from everyone, respect, sharing of tasks, consensus, encouragement, nurturing and a joy of involvement in each other's accomplishments. It should not be with a brute's foot on someone's neck, pointing a gun at everybody else, which is what we are sickeningly stuck with today.

We need to reject the evil, cynical, lie-based, greedy morality and demented culture of this monstrous society. We will find that pursuing a giving, loving, thinking, sharing, altruistically motivated purposefulness is infinitely more rewarding than accumulating status, wealth and power, which also requires us to ignore and/or contribute to the suffering of the many. We save our lives away pursuing the almighty dollar instead of actually living our lives! It (sane anarchy) is the key to unlocking our talents and developing satisfying and continuously evolving relations with everyone and everything around us.

It's really quite simple. It's the exercise of common, human decency using our rational abilities put into practice on all levels of social interactions, without the devastating poison of coercive authority.

Anthony Rayson

denied to him, after allowing them for several years. It had several yellow tabs inserted on the "bad" pages. One tab was on a page that had an article on it that was reprinted from the Chicago Tribune! It's the beginning of thinking people being charged with "thought crimes!"

Khalifani M. Khalidun is also challenging the denial of publications sent to him, over in Indiana. In his case, it involved New African literature. So, it is a broad assault on ideas.

This clampdown is going on all across the gulags, targeting prisoner activists under the guise of "fighting terrorists." Like all other repressive measures that start in the prisons (like "crowd control measures," forced drugging, restraint devices, the militarization of police forces, interrogation/torture techniques, etc.) these harsher methods then move to the "outs" and are used in poor communities, thus making it easier and more like "standard procedure" for the forces of capital to terrorize citizens and kidnap them for their evil punishment industry. So, it is important that we broadcast and challenge these Nuremberg-style censorship and repression laws, as they occur, and show strong solidarity with the courageous prisoners, who are fighting on the front lines for our defense.

Long - born U.S. anarchist prisoner Harold H. Thompson is challenging a decision that will determine whether inmates across the U.S. are able to receive mail containing 'political content'. Currently between 22,000 and 25,000 prisoners receive anarchist, environmental or animal rights literature. Thompson has been pursuing this case for over two years now that this legal right is maintained. A recent District Court setback (these invariably produce biased verdicts) means that at least a further years intensified struggle will be necessary to ensure prisoners access to what state governors refer to as 'Security Threat Group Material' continues. This is a seriously heavyweight!

Harold H. Thompson just turned sixty recently! He's a longtime anarchist writer, poet and jailhouse lawyer, down in Tennessee. Recently, he along with many others across the vast U.S. gulag archipelago, has been victimized by the Bush-Ashcroft "anti-terrorism" hysteria and witchhunt. With the gutless rubber stamping of the "Patriot" laws by the bought and sold Congress, the assault on our dwindling "free speech" rights, is a very real threat.

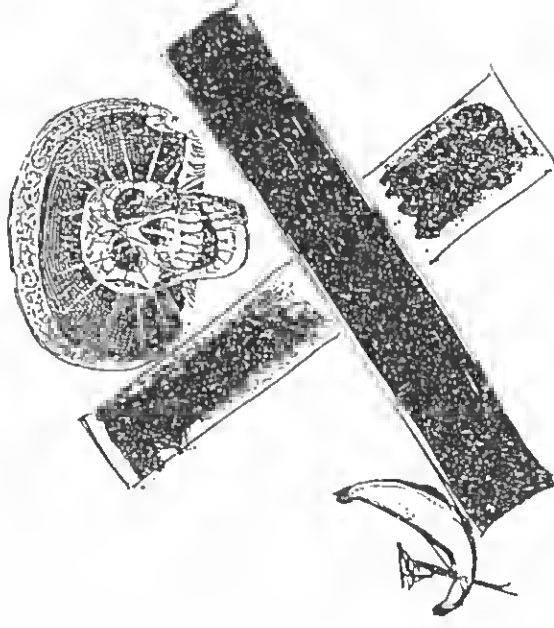
The government begins these repressive measures, first and foremost on conscious prisoners, who are unafraid to speak the truth - like Harold. They may be classified as S.T.G. (Security Threat Group,) be interrogated, sent to a higher security wing or to another camp altogether. They'll probably have their cells ransacked with their books, papers and zines confiscated as "contraband."

In Oregon, the anarchist circle with an "A" in it, is now considered a "gang symbol." This symbol is used by a unit of the Illinois National Guard, as well! There's a war on and its first victim is the truth. The second is the world's children. Witness the fate of the children of Afghanistan and Iraq, just to name two countries who have incurred the vengeful wrath of America's bloodthirsty rulers!

Much correspondence and literature is being tampered with and denied to many prisoners and even outgoing mail is being withheld. In Tennessee, the word "Anarchy" is one of the many "reasons" to deny literature to a prisoner. "Anarchy" and "Prisoner" are perhaps the two most vilified and demonized concepts being targetted by an enemy-seeking government and its sycophantic, mouthpiece press, in America today!

Harold has challenged this outright censorship through the rigged prison litigation procedure, in a very eloquent, groundbreaking and logical fashion. I received a recent issue of my zine, *Thought Bombs* back from these gulag censor troll prisonkrats, which was recently

*Source material for this article was taken from Peter Kropotkin's article written for the 21 1910 *Encyclopedia Britannica*. I also used many of the ideas from the SRAF pamphlet, mentioned earlier. Another source I drew from was the presentation done by myself (Anthony Rayson) and Gale Ahrenson "Prison Abolition" given at the College of Complexes in Chicago, on November 27th, 1999. All of these zines and tens of dozens of others are available very cheap and free to prisoners through the South Chicago ABC Zine Distro, P.O. Box 721, Homewood, IL 60430.

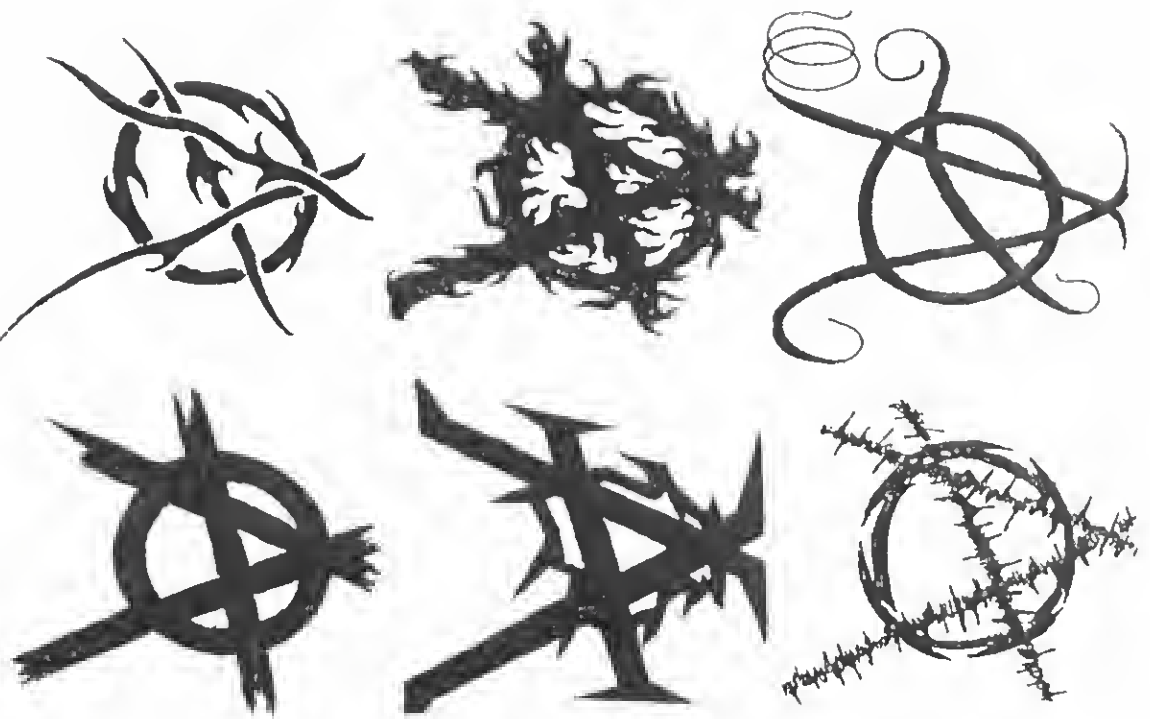


Incarceration As Genocide of the Poetic Races

Genocide of the poetic races was number one on the list of our forefathers and foremothers and remains number one on the list of our current ruling fathers and mothers to this day. Amidst all the varying imperialist conquerors that have goose-stepped upon this earth during recorded history, poetic races have always existed and so far, ultimate extinction of them has been impossible. Still, millions have been slaughtered and population controlled in various forms and thousands of indigenous peoples and cultures have been lost forever. How do you reform genocide?

Because that's what you're talking about in terms of supporting reforms to the U.S. criminal legal industry. Here punishments in the form of 22 incarceration and death are visited upon the backs of the colored races, the poor, the mentally ill and the social/political activists, completely by design. The social planners have built up the prison binge in response to the baby boom of blacks and Hispanics. Contrast that to the schools built for the white baby boomers of the forties and fifties. Prison is the answer to continued White supremacy in a land where the colored races can easily outnumber the Whites. Most everyone knows the statistics: one of every three young black male is imprisoned and in urban areas, one of every two. The increased numbers of black women in prisons and jails. This is not an accident, it's not that blacks have what some have incredibly, arrogantly and inhumanely called a "criminal" gene. Purely and simply, blacks are profiled to be manufactured into criminals -- imprisonment, probation and from which any number of state organizations are then placed upon their backs such as the Department of Children and Family Services who grab the children of the incarcerated. Prisons have only devolved since the days of Les Miserables. As no curbs are put upon the growth of laws, prosecutors, judges, court houses, prisons, police -- members of which comprise the real Super-predators, no one is safe. White collars need to be alarmed as they are getting increased attention these days, which is a hopeful thing as it should ultimately mean attention being paid upon the idea of punishment itself. We need to get rid of the Super-predators, they won't get rid of themselves and are only growing exponentially, but how we can do this is not known. We can look to mythology for guidance and inspiration, David and Goliath for instance. It's no myth that every entity has a weak spot, a soft underbelly, an Achilles heel. Today's Super-predator has a weak spot is well hidden and/or well protected, we need to flush it out. Can it be in their lust to punish while requiring slavish submission and homage from their captive prey? As long as the Super-predator focus has been on the colored races, Super-predators have been allowed to grow with hardly a whimper of protest beyond those communities directly affected and these voices shouting out for justice, for help generally get suppressed by the mainstream media. The current suspension of the death penalty while awaiting reforms in some states is indicative of the system's very corruption and lacks real promise, real courage. Death machines in the hands of government cannot be reformed. It is only we abolitionists who address the very real, very systemic problems within our "just us" system. As in Nazi Germany, we now are all in danger, it's no longer just the colored races, and hiding our heads in the sands won't keep us from the jaws of the criminal justice torture machine. Are we too late? Perhaps we should all just turn ourselves in.

Favorite "Gang Symbol" Game
Choose Your Pick! :)



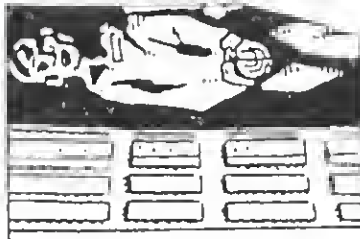
✂️ _____ paste!



The colored races in their indigenous ways of living show lives full of meaning with a proclivity toward egalitarianism, a oneness with the Earth, the Universe and each other. Which is a very good reason to take away their ways of living and gentrify the colored races into the general White Western population since White Western Powers are perfectly capable of requiring so on a grand scale. Any colored race refusing assimilation into White Western Powers will be massacred, imprisoned, spat upon, spat upon and ultimately commodified. Colored races will agree to lose their customs, languages and subsistence lives and agree to work in Coca Cola factories ... or else. Meanwhile, you Mayan Indians in Guatemala as one example can listen to your music on Musak in the grocery stores where you bag groceries that you produced and packaged ... all for the White colonizers who pushed you off your land so that the resources of your own land now belong to the colonizers who have in turn turned you into a wage slave human resource. For you to rebel against this means incarceration and torture at best, death at worst.

*We want freedom for all Black men
held in federal, state, county and city
prisons and jails.*

*We believe that all people should be released from
the many jails and prisons.*



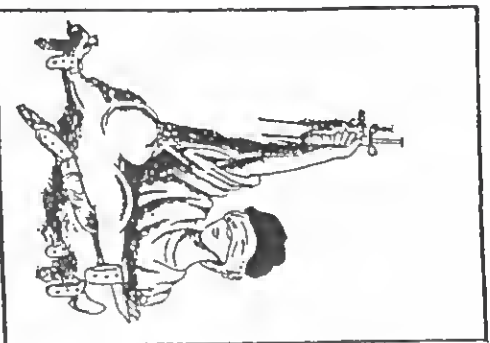
The colored races represent to the world everything opposite of the industrialized White Western Powers' values. Their lives are poetic, dreamy, filled with time for reverie, dance, storytelling, ceremony and each other. This spirit of living to be taking precedence over living to *have* cannot be tolerated by the Imperialist Industrialists. If we all live this way, why who will make and who will buy the SUV's? The Beanie Babies? The Nikes? Who will flip the burgers?

We call for a General Strike. Not for a minute or a day but Forever. No more colonization, economization, incarceration, genocide in any form.

Jane Doe, member of Chicago ABC

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Margaret Majos is an articulate spokeswoman not only for the women at her prison, but for women everywhere who have the courage to testify about what is really going on around them. She's also a mother and wife, who has written a powerful piece which was a big part of the zine, *Women are in Prison*, which accompanied my presentation on women prisoners at the A-Zone on March 23rd, which basically gave us the impetus to start the Chicago ABC.

She has health problems, such as stomach pains and a chronically painful back, which requires a brace, which we would like to be able to help her procure. She has a beautiful soul, is very helpful to her sisters and is very interested in becoming a more involved comrade on all levels. So, please like all of these prisoners mentioned, write to her and find out for yourself why her voice and her life is so important to us all!



BLINDED JUSTICE

MARGARET MAJOS B449682
P.O. Box 14 549
LINCOLN, IL. 62656



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seemingly worthy goals feeds the corrupt system which instead needs to be starved, like a cancerous tumor needing to be starved from fresh blood.

We do not agree with all prisoners nor consider all of them people who value your freedom as much as their own, a basic anarchist tenet. Do Unto Others As You Would Have Them Do Unto You is one of our tenets, if not usually spoken in such Biblical language, especially among anarchists. If another encroaches upon you, be it an individual or state entity, then he, she or it is your enemy and you will have to decide how you deal with this person or machine now or in the future. You may choose to turn the other cheek. Or you may choose to fight. There is a difference between aggression and self defense. Self defense is not an encroachment but a natural and rightful way of dealing with being encroached upon. If you encroach upon another, well, we don't know what philosophy you ascribe yourself under, except one of the miserabilists because you sure ain't no anarchist. Your anarchist community is always there to advise you but you make your own final decisions and live by them. We do consider all prisoners political prisoners.

Anarchist Panther says there's a new black anarchist born every 20 minutes. What's the ratio for Latino anarchists? Indigenous anarchists? Peachy fleshed ones whom the culture calls white anarchists? And ?

Jane Doe, member of Chicago ABC

While we're in solidarity with abolitionist PARC (Prison Activist Resource Center, Angela Davis' group), we also have issues with them. They support abolition of prisons AFTER we as a society have found a structure to replace them. The egalitarian, anarchist answer to that is oh no you don't. Whose and what replacement structure did you have in mind? PARC's? No doubt a government approved and friendly structure -- a structure as codified and regulated as prisons themselves, structures as hierarchal, dull, humorless, abusive, commodified and miserable as schools, churches, work, hospitals, and political conventions. To that we say NO THANKS loudly and clearly.

As the late great John Hammar said, we already have a structure to replace prisons. It's called freedom.

PARC also has paid staff jobs and then say in their literature that they as an organization will have nothing to do with the Prison/Industrial Complex. Well, they just created more jobs within it, even if those jobs are fighting jails and prisons from the outside. How sincere, how serious an abolitionist can you really be when, should you accomplish your goal, you're out of a paying job? Or your paying job fighting prisons is now a paying job in some authoritative alternative structure? We feel being paid to fight prisons sends a wrong and confused message, and it tells such an organization doesn't really believe that prison abolition can happen NOW. We at Chicago ABC say prison abolition must happen and happen NOW, we believe it, envision it, demand it.

We security above-all-else humans need to be honest here. The Cook County jail DOC Supervisor in Chicago Illinois is with a church that just built a new structure to the tune of \$5 million plus -- this church ministering to the imprisoned in the Supervisor's very own DOC institution, the imprisoned and their families. She has women prisoners saying they are the Daughters of Christ (DOC). Don't forget, if Christ ever really lived and did indeed come back as predicted in Christianity, he would only be incarcerated and crucified by his own proclaimed Christian worshippers.

Chicago ABC won't have any paid staff. We are all volunteers here. We are not for profit, but we do NOT have a 501c3 plan. Any body giving time or money -- both go toward prison abolition and prisoner support. Do we help with bail monies and defense attorneys? These ideas are under collaborative discussion. My stance may not win out amongst us, however I have to clearly state that I am against that, as monies going towards these

by: Margaret M.

My name is Margaret Majos. I am currently incarcerated for the last 12 years of my life. Being in this dark place opened up my spiritual and political mind more than ever. Society needs a "wake up" call to the truth (reality - some would call it.)

Well, here it is: I am the voice from inside-out for Anthony Rayson's group to will to make a positive change in our lives. Yes! We are in prison - a cage that must be opened sooner or later. But where does the path lead after the door is opened?

There are so many issues that need to be looked-over and discussed. First of all, it's totally insane to keep 200 females in one dorm where some of them have 10 or more years to do still! Insane! If you are not strong, this will be your "brainwashing storm."

Who thought about it? "Criminal" as they call us, not an animal. Yet! Even an animal is not stuck with 20 others in one cage without hope. If they were, they'd die! Well! Our spirits die too, if not nourished.

There is a huge need in some new programs for "long-timers." Their conduct and rehabilitation should be taken into consideration! Their serving time should be cut shorter!!!

Medical treatment is poor. My own experience speaks for itself. I suffer chronic/permanent back injury/pains, stomach problems, which was treated with a medication that induced the problem. Shame, the authority desires to take away any positive activity in sports, etc.

Please wake the dead spot in your heart, up. Let us live, but teach us how. Only love, peace and compassion can do that! More to come.

Kebby Worner was incarcerated as a teenager. Shortly thereafter, she found out she was pregnant. After giving birth to her daughter, Helen, she was soon after forcibly separated from her. For a while, the baby lived with Kebby's mother. Then the state moved to wrest custody completely from Kebby, like they do to so many incarcerated mothers. All the pain and rage and heartache caused by this unnatural, forced separation of mother and daughter only brought more punishment to Kebby from the authorities. She kept getting more conduct tickets by vindictive, insensitive officials and suffered her anguish while in the hole or in some maximum security unit.

But, she never gave in to despair and fought for her rights and for the rights of her child. She reached out to the activist community and became educated and empowered. She discovered she has a powerful voice and a mighty pen. She's spearheading the formation of a group called PACK - The People Against Court Kidnapping. She wants to fight for the rights of other mothers and fathers who have had their children stripped from their embrace and into the cold cruelty of the state's foster care system, while they languish in prison.

This initiative strikes at the heart of this cruel punishment industry, where they snatch the parents and then come back for the children - like what happened in Argentina during their "dirty war" (with heavy U.S. government complicity.) The cry of love she cries is for all of us! For, what has happened to Kebby could happen to any one of us at any time!

Ms. Kebby L. Warner #259737

Robert Scott Correctional Facility

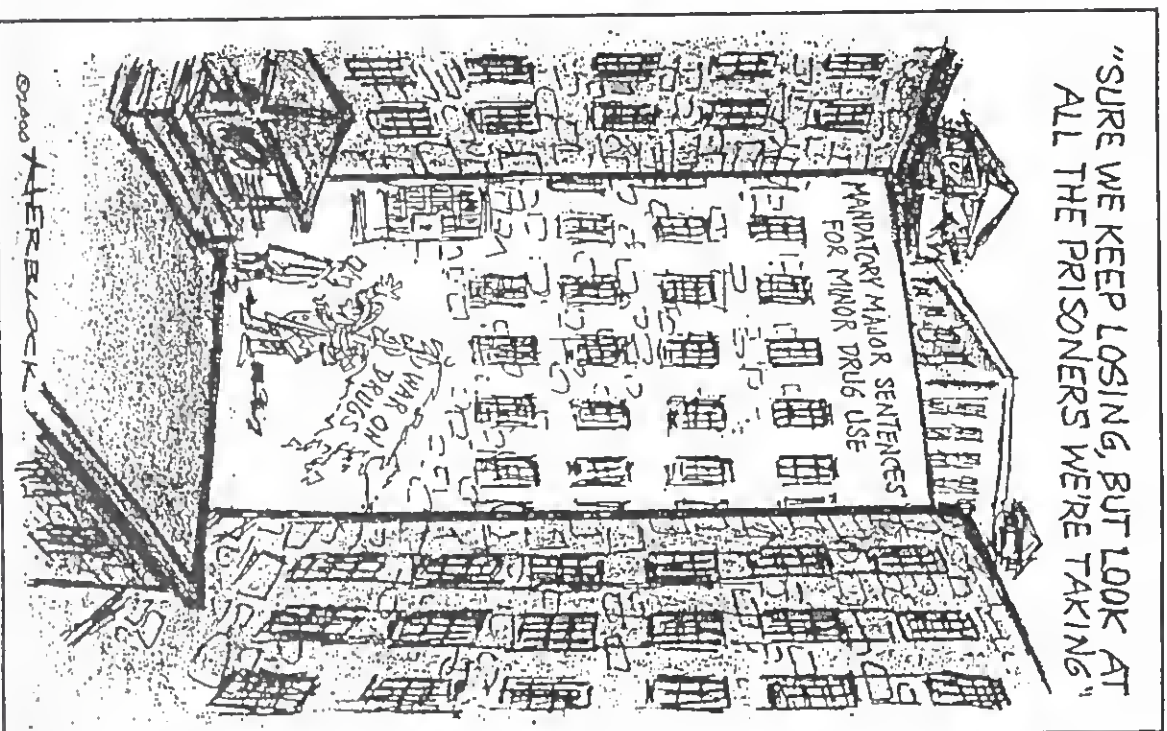
47500 Five Mile Road

Plymouth, Michigan 48170

In Solidarity,
Your Friend,
Kebby



throughout the world. Write to a prisoner today or tomorrow, but do it soon! A world of insight and humanity will open up to you. Tomorrow, it may be us who has been forced at gunpoint from our loved ones and thrust into this dangerous confinement, at the mercy of the cold and murderous state. It can happen at any time, day or night to anyone and *does* happen, thousands of times every single, tragic day.



If someone does, it is likely untrue and just part of a personal vendetta. 34

Another thing you want to look for is consistency. Sure, prisoners develop in their thinking, hopefully along serious anarchist lines, but if a prisoner claims to believe in several schools of thought that have serious differences, something is most likely amiss. Do they use rotish ideological jargon or plain, thinking English? Do they deny responsibility for poor behavior, blame everybody else but themselves and give people different versions of the same situation?

Everybody should be held accountable and be scrupulously honest all of the time, anyway. If someone is caught lying or misrepresenting something unprincipled, they should be called on it and given a chance to deal with it truthfully. None of us are perfect, but there is a limit to such damaging behavior. We can't have our work sabotaged.

Prisoners are captives of our enemies, are very vulnerable, subject to constant punishment, in a despairing hellhole, where the authorities try to drive them insane. We must bend way over backwards for them and support them as best we can. But, we must be allowed to support them without being ordered around and demeaned by them or be expected to sit quietly as they do wrong to our comrades.

We would not allow dishonest, self-serving predators or sexist, racist, homophobic, authoritarian types to undermine our collective work on the outside. We also cannot allow a prisoner to do the same to prisoner supporters and our legitimate prisoner comrades and collaborators.

It may take making mistakes, learning the hard way, after being gullible and sucked in by a charming, even talented schemer. We may develop personal feelings for them, clouding our judgement or allow ourselves to go into denial or be coerced into silence or whatever.

We have to keep our eyes open. Find a reliable, principled longtime supporter and/or prisoner for their opinions, suggestions and recommendations. For, working with genuinely courageous prisoner comrades is, in my opinion, the most enlightening and rewarding activity in all of activism. Everything is concentrated and important.

There is much to learn from and savor from a well-written personal letter. There's an incredible amount of talent locked up - writers, poets, artists, analysts, researchers, activists, organizers. They are the primary source of information about the vast (and rapidly changing for the worst) prison system, as well as the driving force in developing groups to fight the myriad of injustices therein. We *must* help with these vital projects!

For, we're all prisoners of the jailers and rulers, whether we're in the factories, prisons, schools, ghettos or hiding from the bombing

People Against Court Kidnapping

"Imagine giving birth to a child while the avine are the only people by your side, you have no one to turn to, no one to understand, and no one to share your tears, your pain. Then imagine leaving your child at the hospital, while you are taken back to a cage in handcuffs and chains. You are told "If you wanted children, you shouldn't of come to prison." Your cries and tears are shown in front of uncaring, hateful, guards. After all this pain, 4 months later you are told the state are charging you with neglect and threatening to take your child. After fighting for two years, your child is kidnapped by the state and placed up on the market-for adoption, the US baby Market.

This in my story and I am sure there are many more like mine, some with similar stories some with different stories, but

in the end, it's all the same. The state takes your child! Now imagine an organization of THE PEOPLE, in and out, that's fights for the right of parents who are incarcerated. This is an organization that I want to start. I would love responses from like minds who would help me. Nothing can be done by one voice, I want to make the state hear a roar!!!!!! I would appreciate any ideas, jailhouse lawyers, who are educated in family law, and parents who this has been done to or who support my plight." All letters will be responded to.

What you think? I'm sure I'll get some responses. I know you'll send it to the masses.

I've never heard of the Three Irish Tenors. Is it a play? I'm sure it was really fun. I can't wait to get out of here and enjoy my freedom. For a little while I'd like to go off to myself. There's always so much noise here, I want peace and solitude. Maybe a camping trip out in the country. AHHHHH what peaceful bliss!

As far as zines getting to me, now is the time. Send as many as you can. The mailroom people quit and we have a couple of rookies in there from a temporary agency. They don't know shit. I know that everyone else is clamped down, but this place is really laid back right now. They're so stupid they actually threw a bag of mail away on accident, it had to be dug out of the dumpster! It's crazy! Anyway, send what you can, now is the time.

What is your opinion of September 11? I can understand why they did it, but so many innocent people died, including children. I don't agree with that, I think there could of been a better way. Now this war and we're killing innocent people. Where does it end. Our government is sick! They should of hit them!!

Well, Anthony, my fingers are about to fall off! I can't wait to read some more zines. I need to read something else then the shit they offer us here. I hate to ask you this, but I was wondering if you could send me a few dollars. I have nothing, not even soap. I've been really struggling and since I moved it seems I can't get a job. I'm on the list, just waiting for an opening. If you can, I'd really appreciate it. They made an announcement a few days ago that we can receive money orders again, so it's a lot easier. Thank you so much.

Well, I must end this here for now. I can't wait to hear back from you! Until then, my love, thoughts, and prayers are with you.....

The Invisible Crisis: Women and Psychiatry

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what the psychiatric consumer/survivor movement and women's liberation movement can teach each other

We all know someone who's had some type of mental health treatment; many of us have experienced it ourselves. Millions of Americans are on psychiatric drugs (and the majority are women); hundreds of thousands face involuntary or coerced treatment—hospitalization, electroshock, drugging—every year. Many of them falsely believe their emotional and behavior problems are a "medical illness." Many die, or are permanently damaged physically and emotionally, by these "treatments." Why do feminist/progressive writers and activists, who are used to challenging so much of the status quo, generally accept the myths of psychiatry, and fail to notice these human rights violations that happen every day? Psychiatric oppression is the invisible oppression that directly harms millions, hurts how all of us relate to each other, and discourages us from taking real action to help people's problems.

Activists are justifiably horrified at theories that attempt to explain the oppression of women and racial "minorities" by saying they're naturally passive or less intelligent. But theories of emotional distress and addictive behavior as "genetic," "chemical imbalances," or "brain diseases" are just as scientifically dubious, and just as much an attempt to locate the sources of human conflict and misery in our genes. No matter how troubling emotion and behavior problems may be, they don't become "illnesses" simply because drug companies, the psychiatric establishment, and the government insist that they are. Psychiatric drugs and electroshock actually cause brain imbalances and disorders, not "correct" them, and usually cover up and/or worsen people's original problems. I think people should be able to try any mind-altering drugs they want to, but they deserve the truth, not what pharmaceutical companies want them to believe.

In general, women are still *psychiatrized* (labeled and/or treated) more often than men. Elderly women make up the largest group receiving electroshock; this violence is also pushed on pregnant women as a "safe" alternative to drugs, and is even being recommended for children. Some diagnoses, like ADHD, are given more to males. Many conservatives have called this a "war against boys." They're partly right, but neither they nor feminists seem to be noticing the psychiatric/pharmaceutical push to label and drug millions of girls by redefining the disorder to include daydreaming and procrastination as symptoms. And there's a push to treat "underserved" Black and Latino communities. It's not "innate male behavior" targeted in the ADHD/Ritalin epidemic, but any youthful behavior that annoys adults, and children are abused with drugs as a result. What right do adults have to warn children about illegal drugs when millions of kids have their growing brains and bodies hurt by semi-legal speed? Gay/lesbian/bisexual and gender-variant youth are also at risk of unwanted psychiatric treatment to fit them into "traditional" gender roles.

More and more of our problems are being turned into illnesses. Paxil is promoted as a fix for "social anxiety"—but what could be worse for very shy, insecure people than reliance on a pill? Prozac is sold under the name Sarafen, with sexist TV commercials, to be used for severe premenstrual complaints ("PMD")—though testing found it no better than placebo. Many feminists mistakenly call for more medical research into post-partum depression—but shouldn't the focus be on the often-difficult social conditions of childbearing and childrearing? Drugs are being tested for the "disorder" of compulsive shopping and for extreme anger, now "intermittent explosive disorder." There don't seem to be any limits to what psychiatry thinks it can medicalize—or the gullibility of the public and media.

Coercive psychiatric treatment is promoted by misinformation about the sources of human problems and the effectiveness of treatment, and by sensationalistic attempts to link crime to "untreated mental illness." This is the agenda of many mental health "advocacy" groups (especially the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill)—some of which receive drug company money to help push forced drugging laws. In most of these criminal cases, the person was already receiving psychiatric treatment. Taking or withdrawing from psychiatric drugs has been implicated in many episodes of violence, including cases of mothers who've suddenly killed their children and/or themselves. Forced psychiatric drugging does not prevent violence—it is violence. Proponents of force argue that people considered severely mentally ill "lack reason." But is there anything reasonable about trying to fix emotional pain with institutionalization, seclusion, restraints, injections and shock? People know when they're being disrespected—and tortured. (It's interesting to note that for centuries women were said to "lack reason," rationalizing all sorts of abuses against us.)

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have done harm to others and self. Many are innocent or are "guilty" of "crimes" that aren't really crimes. The only thing we *do* know, is that the *prisons* are a criminally run, money-making, rip-off business.

I'll give prisoners the benefit of the doubt and offer basic support, if they reach out to me, like sending zines or a nice, personal letter. But, investing serious time, effort and emotional energies is usually a judgement call. Supporters must learn who is legitimate, honest and worthy of extra effort. This is not always easy. Some prisoners are sophisticated predators and use the altruism of supporters to try to build themselves up or to get a stream of money going towards them. Some are delusional or in some other way not psychologically healthy and are unable to see themselves as they truthfully are and try to convince others of this image they have of themselves as being real.

Warning signs of these manipulative types are - twisted rewriting of the particulars of their arrest and how their actions leading to their arrest and sentencing constitute "political prisoner" status without any other confirmation by others. Are they being honest about their past?

It does happen that people sucked into prison as self-centered (and self-hating) petty criminal / drug addicts or whatever - can indeed transform themselves into something magnificent, like Malcolm X, or as a contributing member of the struggle. But, to be truly transformed takes a courageous and painful re-examination of oneself. It takes self-analysis and a willingness to break everything down and start afresh. A lot of "souljahs" talk a good game, but once released, quickly fall back into old patterns of behavior and return to prison. They've been unable to transcend the psychology of criminality.

Talk is cheap. A lot of prisoners have a lot of talent. Are they always truthful? Do they care about your thoughts, ideas and feelings, or are they only focused on themselves, their case and their take on things. Do they try to keep you from comparing notes with others who have had dealings with them? Are they seemingly always on the warpath against some other prisoner or outside supporter? Do they try to bully, shame, coerce, humiliate, threaten or otherwise try to manipulate you emotionally? Even though they are in prison, some of these mind games can prove very devastating to people and adversely affect good work.

Anarchists don't go to cops or prison authorities to rat on people with real or imagined charges. We may hold our nose to try to reason with these gulag pigkrats to bring to their attention assaults by guards (or their setting up of assaults by quivering prisoners) bogus conduct tickets, medical neglect, violations of first amendment rights, the case for parole, or whatever. But, we *never* go to the authorities to snitch on somebody!

Incarceration is criminal. The abolition of the huge industry of kidnapping, show trialing and incarceration is a basic tenet of anarchist thought. Prison is the antithesis of freedom, justice and liberty. There are two million prisoners, many of whom are lost, despairing, hopeless, malvolent, psychologically tortured, scarred, scared - even criminal!

Everything about society is heightened in prison - cruelty, suffering, racism, sexism, deprivation, predation, violence, kindness, love - everything!

Prisoners have so little. Many try to think of ways to improve their situation - get money or drugs or something to barter with from within the walls and from the outside. Mostly, of course, they lean on their families. The most they can receive from their slave labor job is 1/5 of minimum wage. Many prisoners are forced to toil for absolutely zero pay, yet must pay for inferior products, obscenely marked-up.

The people not directly involved in their ease have been mostly brainwashed by the authorities to think of prisoners as the Nazis had folks look at Jews - as subhumans to be avoided and made to suffer at the hands of the authorities, who "we" allegedly employ to "protect" us from the "bad guys." The super-predators who run the vast Amerikan gulag archipelago, are hermetically sealed from any accountability, oversight or reporting and are free to practice their sadism, while being cascaded with huge amounts of steady, ever-increasing amounts of cash.

These two million human beings have feelings, talents, hopes, aspirations and families - children, parents and siblings. They deserve our support as members of our human family, as residents from our neighborhoods and cities. We need them and they need us and not just to advance the struggle. On a basic human level, we need each other's love and encouragement, insights, courage and empowering example. We need our family members at home, free to function productively!

But, as outside supporters, how do we know who we can trust? Who deserves to be supported by us? That's a hard question to answer. Many prisoners have many levels to their psyches, operate on various levels of honesty and like everybody else, are going through constant changes. Charming people may have nasty, hidden agendas.

I never ask what a prisoner is imprisoned for, because he or she may tell you the truth or they may not. What does it matter? Whatever they are "guilty" of was determined by an illegitimate criminal authority, whose laws are designed to perpetuate their oppressive regime. Many

One of the women's movement's most important, controversial contributions has been to expose the incredible amount of socially tolerated violence suffered at the hands of "loved ones. It's time to apply the same analysis to psychiatry, as a common, socially accepted way to inflict often enormous harm on those close to you. Except that people who coerce family and friends into mental health treatment usually honestly believe it's "for their own good." Forced psychiatry is just a form of violence itself, it's often a way to cover up abuse and rape of women and children. Their normal reactions to victimization lead to a second assault-by psychiatry. And coercive sterilization and loss of child custody are some of the ways psychiatrized women still frequently have their reproductive and parental rights violated.

Activists in the psychiatric consumer/survivor movement have made some excellent feminist analyses of the mental health system. Psychiatric survivor Judi Chamberlin noted years ago that the feminist critique of psychiatry is dominated by mental health professionals, not patients, focuses more on sexism in psychiatry, rather than the overall oppressiveness of the psychiatric system, and fails to see the importance of the personal as political by letting patients speak for themselves. Survivor Janet Foner calls the mental health system the "institutionalization of sexism," because it is based on a stereotypically masculine drive to control and suppress emotions. Feminist writers Louise Armstrong (*And They Call it Help*) and Paula Caplan (*They Say, You're Crazy*) have criticized both psychiatry's history of mother/woman-blaming, and its current domination by unproved biological theories. Survivor Sasha Claire McInnes and lawyer Susan Stefan wrote that feminists have ignored forced treatment as a form of violence against women. Kate Millett (*The Loony-Bin Trip*) has written eloquently on psychiatry as social control.

The movement for freedom from coercive psychiatry is a movement against corporate control of our lives, and a movement against harmful incarceration. It is a pro-choice movement - the right for people to try "treatment" if they want, but to be free from force. If we don't think the state should control our bodies, we must fight against the state controlling our brains. If we war toxic chemicals out of our environment and food, we should be wary of putting them in our brains. The psychiatric survivors movement is an essential movement for freedom, self-determination and peace.

Every moment the "experts" spend speculating or lying about biological causes of "mental illness" is a moment spent ignoring the social causes of emotional problems, ignoring the abuse discrimination, poverty, and disappointments that can throw people into despair and madness. Every moment spent promoting the next "safe, effective" biological treatment, and scheme to force it on people, is a moment spent ignoring truly helpful, caring, respectful, nonmedical, voluntary ways to help suffering people. Feminists can ignore the abuses of psychiatry, and the need for true alternatives, no longer.

by Katherine Hodges, founder of Mad Lib, an information and direct action group
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Learn more about the international psychiatric survivors movement at
www.MindFreedom.org and www.narpa.org



Chicago Anarchist Black (& Red) Cross

Always relentless, ever penetrating in analysis and advocacy.

The ABC's to Freedom: Now I Know My ABC's. Whaddya Think of Me?

A. is for Action of Passion

a. Marches. To prisons, court houses, elite communities and homes of Super-predators.

b. Outings. Telephone, mail campaigns and demonstrations against prison profiteers and organized boycotts against their brands and sponsors.

r. Demands.

c. Outreach. Lectures, speeches, talks, workshops, shows, film nights, programs, performances, teachings.

B. is for Base of Support

a. Solidarity with the targeted. Work with the communities most hunted by the Super-predators: blacks, Hispanics, mentally impaired and the poor.

b. Solidarity with other ABC's. Work with other ABC's and help build new branches.

r. Solidarity with each other.

c. Solidarity with other groups and projects. Work with other progressive/revolutionary prisoner projects and groups such as PACK, MPLU, Chain Reaction, and individual cases as possible.

R. is for Relaxation and Fun

C. is for Continuing Education

a. Expose the prison system for what it is. Ground zero of state power abuse and a money making racket for Super-predators and their foot soldier dependents. Use any and all means possible, branding ourselves all the while as Chicago ABC.

Chicago ABC
P.O. Box 721
Homewood, IL 60430



b. Build prisoner self esteem. Provide educational tools to prisoners and their loved ones. Teach them: that no one belongs in a Torture Chamber no matter what they've done or not done; that they are profiled and manufactured to be criminals -- they are criminalized, not criminals -- as a policy of genocide and slavery; that the Super-predators do not have any moral high ground, only power and are themselves society's real and most dangerous criminals; that a society needing and supporting prisons is not a society worth upholding; that if we don't stop the Super-predators the Super-predators won't be stopped; that the Super-predators grow daily and that our punishments feed their growth; that no one is ever a number but each and all are humans with names, passions, desires, longings, talent and intellect. Help them express their own humanity by using their writings, art, music and experiences in educating society at large as well as all criminalized humanity to the idea that punishment is a corruption against life.

r. Observe.

c. Raise awareness of prison activists. Help mainstream and tamer prisoner activists see how all prisoners are political prisoners, how all prisoners are prey of the Super-predators, how no one is safe from Super-predators, how activists can effect real beneficial change in the world when freed from fear of Super-predator power and control.

FEATURES and COLUMN IDEAS for Chicago ABC or ABRC News Letter

- Prisoner Focus/Case Support
- Outing column (of person/company/organization/town profiting from prisons, what the Super-predators are up to now)
- Opinions Columns
- Punishment studies/analysis.
- Prisoner Art and Literature
- Actions Alert/Prisoner Support
- Basic Anarchist Tenets (No Gods/Masters/Bosses)/Egalitarian

